

# Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, August 24, 2017

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## SHOCK AS MORE THAN 50 CARAVANS DESCEND ON OPEN SPACE



Caravans dominate the open space in Goscote

DOZENS of caravans have descended on open space in Walsall in what some locals have described as the biggest traveller encampment ever to set up in the area.

More than 50 caravans arrived at a plot off Goscote Lane – known as Swannies Field – on Saturday with more than a dozen more arriving on Monday.

Residents have been left stunned by the sheer size of the encampment and are demanding immediate action from authorities.

Former Walsall Council member Peter Smith said: "This is the biggest traveller encampment that I have ever seen in the Goscote area. People are saying they can't believe the volume of caravans and all of the

other associated vehicles. At most, if there are four people to each caravan you could be looking at as many as 200 people there with no toilets or anything.

"I hate to imagine the litter and rubbish which will be left behind when they have gone.

"There are a lot of new houses around here. What an advertisement this is for anyone looking to buy a home."

Mr Smith, a former mayor of Walsall, said thousands of pounds had been spent upgrading play equipment in the area in the last 12 months and now children could not use it while travellers were nearby.

He added: "People want to know exactly what actions will be taking place to remove

these travellers and then clear up this public space which has had thousands of pounds spent on it on the last year."

Meanwhile, organisers of a petition calling for Walsall Council to ban travellers from two popular beauty spots say nearly 1,000 have backed the idea.

Councillor Adrian Andrew and Councillor Chris Towe, who represent the Pheasey Park Farm ward, launched the petition this month, calling for bans to be put in place at Barr Beacon and Doe Bank Park.

Returned petition papers have so far amounted to more than 600 signatures, with Councillor Towe saying he believes that more than 1,000 will have registered their support when all forms are returned.

## Work beginning to level Bonser's former business EMPTY FACTORY TO BE FLATTENED

WORK was getting under way this week to level Walsall FC chairman Jeff Bonser's historic former factory as part of a multi-million pound regeneration project.

The zinc alloy castings and bathroom fittings company, called JW Bonser Ltd, has been derelict since the firm collapsed in 2015. The closure of the building on Albert Street, near the town centre, saw the last 20 remaining jobs go with it. Now the unsafe building, which sits behind an eye-catching mural to commemorate Walsall FC's first trip to Wembley, is being bulldozed.

Walsall Council, which acquired the factory premises in 2007, confirmed the demolition was part of the £400m Gigaport scheme which aims to create 127,000 square metres of business and office space along the Walsall ring road.

### Pleased

Regeneration chief Councillor Lee Jeavons, said: "We are delighted to have reached this stage in the development.

"There is an opportunity for us to transform this site for the benefit of the people who live, work and shop in Walsall town centre as part of the Gigaport project.

"The building has been empty for some time and we are pleased to be moving forward with plans for redevelopment."

A neighbouring building on private land will also be bulldozed as part of the work which was due to begin this week and will see Albert Street closed off until October.

Mr Bonser sold his company to Leices-

### REPORT BY CARL JACKSON

ter-based Dalby Holdings in 2003. It collapsed in March 2015 and was formally dissolved a month later.

The council's building control officers went in to inspect the premises – the Bonser and Doran buildings – last year but declared they were in a 'very poor condition' and lodged an application for them to be levelled last September.

The Doran building was deemed to be in a 'dangerous' state.

Now nearly a year on and one of the remnants of Walsall's industrial past is on the cusp of being ground into dust.

The Gigaport project was announced several years ago.

It has already seen the demolition of the Albion Tannery building on Hatherton Street nearby.



The former factory buildings in Albert Street which are being levelled to make way for redevelopment

### RESTAURANTS

## Five Guys leads next wave at Waterfront

FIVE GUYS, Cream's, Subway and Gourmet Burger Kitchen will be the next four restaurants to come to Walsall town centre.

Council bosses have confirmed the eateries will open at the town's £65 million Waterfront area next month. They will be next to Pizza Express, Chiquito's, Green King, Bella Italia, TGI Fridays and The Light Cinema. The announcement was made by Kier Property.

Walsall Council's deputy leader Lee Jeavons said: "We are delighted four major food outlets have chosen to invest in Walsall town centre. These restaurants will make a fantastic addition to the Waterfront – creating jobs and offering further choice in the town centre."

### HEALTH

## Investigation begins into medicine error

AN investigation has been launched after a pregnant woman was administered medicine incorrectly at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Whilst on the delivery suite on July 26 the woman was supposed to be given the medication via an epidural but it was instead provided through an intravenous drip.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust confirmed the patient was not harmed.

### POLICE

## Woman attacked on old railway line

POLICE are hunting a man who dragged a woman to a disused railway line and sexually assaulted her.

The 43-year-old says she is now 'petrified' to go outside. Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident, which happened in Pensall at 11pm last Wednesday.

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 quoting crime reference number 20WS/174935B/17.

### INSIDE

## FLY-TIPPER IS SENT TO JAIL



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# First picture of murder victim



Harish Kumar

THIS is the Willenhall murder victim whose body was found in a BMW at West Bromwich police station, as it emerged he died from a stab wound to the chest.

The body of Harish Kumar was discovered in the front passenger seat of a BMW at the police station in Moor Street.

A post-mortem revealed the 39-year-old, died as a result of stab wound to the chest. Mr Kumar has been described as a 'humble man' by his family.

They said in a statement: "Harish was a great, yet very humble, man. He was always there to help and he will be sadly missed - I can't just believe that we've lost him."

## Trial

The man charged with his murder, Sukhwinder Singh, 40, from MacDonaldis Close, Tividale, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week. He spoke only to confirm his name.

A provisional trial date was set for January 29. He was remanded in custody.

Judge James Burbidge QC told him: "You'll next be back in court on October 9 by which time I would hope, if there has to be, there will at least be a preliminary report."

"If you are to be tried by a jury of 12 people, that will happen in January."

A murder investigation was launched after the discovery of Mr Kumar's body.

# £2.8m Saddlers Centre loss raises sale issues

**THE SADDLERS Centre made a loss of nearly £3 million last year - raising questions over why the council wants to buy it.**

The latest accounts for Topland (Saddlers Walsall) Limited show the firm made a loss of £2.8m in the 2015/16 financial year, while it also declined in value by more than £600,000 from £16m to £15.38m.

It comes as Walsall Council is 'weeks' away from completing the purchase of the centre for more than £13m and has justified its huge outlay by saying the centre will make money for the council.

It claims it will net the authority £835,000 per year, despite the accounts showing it is losing money.

The authority needs to save £86m by 2020 and has shut nine libraries and slashed hundreds of jobs in the borough in an attempt to make savings.

## Investigate

But the latest findings have led to politicians questioning the purchase of the Saddlers Centre.

Councillor Mike Bird, the leader of the Conservative opposition in Walsall, said: "I have already asked the chief executive to investigate this."

"I am very concerned that this purchase no longer seems to be what was proposed."

Former mayor and councillor Pete Smith added: "The leadership of Walsall Council must now make a full and frank statement as to what details about the company were known before the decision was made to purchase the Saddlers Centre."

"Walsall Council taxpayers need reassurance that they haven't been 'sold a pup'," he added.

Walsall Council said it carried out 'due diligence' regarding the purchase.

Liberal Democrat leader for the borough, Councillor Ian Shires, said: "Buying the Saddlers Centre is a capital investment. It stands in a prime position in the heart of our town."

"If you come into Walsall by train it's the first thing you see."

## Hole in one for 11-year-old Jed



Celebrating his golfing success is 11-year-old Jed Benson who has sunk a hole in one

YOUNG golfer Jed Benson is celebrating a rare feat having sunk a hole-in-one aged only 11.

Jed was playing in a competition at Druids Heath Golf Club in Aldridge alongside father Peter and a fellow club member when he shot in on the par three seventh hole, which measures 183 yards.

The Shenstone schoolboy, who has just left Lichfield Cathedral

School to join Denstone College, surpassed his golf-loving grandfather Stan Wade with the achievement.

"The seventh is a hard green to see as it's above you," said dad Peter.

"He hit it fairly low and we heard a thud, thinking that it had hit the flag and bounced away so he walked over a bit glum. We couldn't find

the ball! Then we noticed it in the hole.

"It was disbelief, he was shouting it to everyone."

Jed first picked up a golf club at the age of six. His father said: "His grandad and uncle on his mum's side got him into the sport."

"His uncle Ryan has done it twice but his grandad has never hit one in about 40 years."

# Alicia ready to make splash in the pool at School Games

A TALENTED swimmer is gearing up to represent Walsall in the upcoming School Games National Finals.

The School Games is an annual sporting competition for the UK's most talented young athletes and will take place at Loughborough University from August 31 to September 3.

Walsall Academy pupil Alicia Dingle, a member of the Royal Wolverhampton School Swimming Club, will compete for the England Central squad in the swimming section of the competition.

The 15-year-old already has an impressive record of success: she was selected to represent Team GB at the European Youth Olympics Festival this year and has a personal best of 27.25 seconds for the 100m freestyle.

Speaking of her inspiration to compete, she said: "The London Olympics were so inspiring to watch."

"I saw the torch passed through my hometown and loved the atmosphere of the Games. The School Games National Finals is a great opportunity for me."



Alicia Dingle

## Museum hosting annual conference

Staff from open-air museums across Europe will descend on a popular tourist attraction for a conference.

This year's keynote speaker - Dr Patrick Greene OBE - will start the conference at Black Country Living Museum with his thoughts on what lies ahead for open-air museums.

BCLM director and chief executive Andrew Lovett will provide introductory remarks which will be livestreamed on YouTube.

The venue is holding the 28th Association of European Open-Air Museums Conference until Friday.

Mr Lovett said: "We're delighted to welcome over 100 colleagues from open-air museums from across Europe - and some from across the globe - to the West Midlands for a fascinating few days."

## Sat navs stolen in raid on Toyota car

CASH, a computer and three sat navs were stolen when a thief smashed his way into a car.

A Toyota parked in Spout Lane, Walsall, was broken into between 1.30am and 2.30am last Wednesday. Two windows were smashed to gain entry.

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# Own goal for Saddlers fan as cheap stay involves ferry

WHEN Saddlers fan Davey DREW bagged a cheap hotel just 11 miles away from the away game at Portsmouth he was over the moon.

He boasted on social media about getting himself a 'an absolute bargain' on a hotel a day ahead of his side's visit to Portsmouth on Saturday.

But his booking for the hotel turned into an apparent nightmare... when the 11-mile trip involved a ferry ride as it was on the Isle of Wight.

Just before 12noon on Saturday – three hours before kick-off – the supporter, who tweets under the account @Daveysaddler, said: "I've now got to check in then get the ferry back."

He later sent a message to Walsall Football Club which said: "Is there any chance you could delay kick-off, I've had a mare."

And he added, responding to another Twitter user: "If we get the result I might see the funny side."

Walsall looked like it may get the win at Fratton Park thanks to a first-half goal from Luke Leahy, but Portsmouth equalised 16 minutes from time. The game ended 1-1.

After the match, upon hearing about the fan's experience, club manager Jon Whitney saw the funny side. He and vice-captain Joe Edwards offered to help the fan for his ferry fare.

Walsall FC have now invited Davey to meet the team and offered to help with his fare.

# Derelict old pub is still on the market

AN arson-stricken former pub remains on the market more than six months after it was hoped it could be redeveloped.

The Royal Oak, in Whitehall Road, Tipton, has been struck by vandals in recent months after standing in a crumbling derelict state for more than 10 years. It was put on the market with The Property Shop along with the two adjoining houses for £245,000 at the start of this year.

However, it still remains unsold, prompting concern.

Councillor Joanne Hadley, who represents the Great Bridge ward, said: "It hasn't sold yet and makes you wonder what will come of it."

"I will looking into it to see what can be done."

# Car key burglary

A MERCEDES was stolen in a car key burglary in Tetley Avenue, Walsall, between 3.19am and 5.30am on Thursday. The intruder snapped the lock in a UPVC door and fled in the car after finding the keys to the ve-

# Merson talks to fans over slice of pizza



Birmingham date – Paul Merson

He managed Walsall FC, represented England 21 times and helped Aston Villa to the FA Cup final back 2000.

And now footballing legend-turned pundit Paul Merson, also known as 'Mers' is coming to Pizza Express in Brindley Place, Birmingham, to talk over the highs and lows of his 21-year career. Paul first made his debut in the 1986- to '87 season for Arsenal; going on to play 11 seasons with the club. While with The Gunners, Paul won was a key player; with the club

winning the Football League Championship twice, the FA Cup, the Football League Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

In 1997, he joined Middlesbrough, helping the club gain promotion to the Premier League, before joining Villa in '98.

## Returned

In 2002, the former England star signed for Portsmouth and captained the club to the First Division Championship title and promotion to the Premier League.

A year later, he returned to the West Midlands with Walsall FC, where he went on to serve as player-manager until he was sacked in February 2006.

He also had short spells with non-league clubs Tamworth, Whitton Athletic and Welshpool Town, making his final appearance in 2012 at the age of 43.

An Audience With Paul Merson will take place at Pizza Express on November 28.

Tickets for the event, priced at £35, are now on sale.

# Brothers' row ends in 'frenzied knife attack'

**A MAN armed with three knives launched a 'frenzied' attack on his brother in front of two police officers, a court heard.**

Gareth Cable pulled out the knives during a 'childish' argument with James Cable, in the hallway of their sister's home, prosecutors allege.

The 41-year-old plunged a blade deep through his brother's hand and slashed him across his face at the Yew Tree Estate property, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Dean Kershaw, prosecuting, said: "There may be lots of regret in this case. But at the time he was thrusting that knife into his brother's face, we say he intended to kill him."

The brothers were at the Birchfield Way home when police were called to a 'domestic incident' on February 23.

Officers saw the brothers arguing but were unaware Gareth Cable had a knife in his pocket and two blades in his jacket, the court was told.

## Jabbing

The defendant, of Norton Crescent, Bordesley Green, Birmingham, brandished a pink handled flick knife before pushing his brother into the hall and jabbing him to the face as he lay on the floor, the court heard.

He then slashed his victim with a blade across the nose and 'sliced' through tendons and nerves as he repeatedly stabbed his brother, who may lose the use of his hand, Mr Kershaw said.

Police only managed to bring the attack to an end when an officer Tasered Gareth Cable.

Mr Kershaw added: "[The argument] all seemed a bit petty, a bit of tit for tat, a little bit childish. But it escalated when this defendant produced a knife and attacked his brother with it."

Jurors were told the defendant accepts he stabbed his brother with a black handled kitchen knife and the flick knife but rejects claims regarding a Stanley knife.

Cable denies attempted murder and having an article with a blade or a point. The trial continues.

# Young Tommy an Olympic star



Tommy Brown with his dad Dean and Rushall Olympic skipper Liam Lawrence

A football club shone the light on a young boy who lost his legs to meningitis to raise money for a replacement limbs.

Tommy Brown, from Walsall, was just five months old when he had to have his legs, arm and fingers amputated after contracting meningitis. But now his family

are raising £20,000 for a new set of prosthetic legs. He has so far received support from West Bromwich Albion hero Bob Taylor.

And on Saturday the young boy was the guest of honour at Rushall Olympic's home game against Stalybridge Celtic.

He walked out with captain

Liam Morris as mascot before having his picture taken with Wayne Thomas.

Proceeds of a raffle and bucket collections will go to Tommy's cause.

Club commercial manager Chris Hession said: "We wanted to get involved and play our part."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Opinion sought over GP services

People still have time to have their say about radical changes to GP services in Walsall.

The borough's clinical commissioning group, CCG, has proposed closing two surgeries, merging another six as well as scrapping out-of-hours and weekend appointments for five GP surgeries.

The CCG is asking people to have their say on the plans by visiting two consultation events. These are taking place on August 22 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Keys Family Practice, Willenhall and on August 30 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at Kingfisher Practice on Churchill Road.

# New B&M store opens with 35 jobs

A DISCOUNT store has opened in Walsall, creating 35 jobs.

B&M in Digbeth has chosen its local charity, Walsall Carers' Centre, which received £250 worth of vouchers.

Store manager Devan Beckett said: "The team from Walsall Carers' Centre really stood out for us as they go the extra mile for local people."

"We wanted to give them some VIP treatment as a thank you for all the hard work they do."

"We hope that our donation can help them to continue the great work they do."

# Thefts from cars prompt warning

PEOPLE are being reminded to remove valuables from their car overnight after a series of incidents.

Last week a sat nav was stolen from a parked car in Cairns Street, Walsall, and a mobile phone, wallet and camera were stolen from a car in Ludlow Lane, Walsall.

Kevin Pitt, the police, engagement and consultation officer for Walsall, said: "Even items of low or little value may tempt a thief to break into and possibly damage your vehicle." Anyone with any information on the two incidents is asked to call 101.

# Shock as tropical fish is saved from canal

A tropical fish usually found in the waters of the Amazon Basin has been rescued from a canal.

Canal and River Trust staff stumbled upon the leopard pleco, which is traditionally found in South America, in the Walsall Canal.

John Ellis, national fisheries and angling manager with the trust, said the fish would not have survived the autumn season unless it had been found.

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## Volunteer plea for trust work

VOLUNTEERS are wanted for a county wildlife trust's nature reserve. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust needs help from people in Lichfield, Burntwood and Cannock. It is to help with its recently-acquired Gentleshaw Common. The trust has signed a 99-year lease with Lichfield District Council. Tasks for volunteers including bracken control and heathland restoration.

Volunteers meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month with each work party taking place between 10.30am and 3pm, meeting at the parking area off Chorley Road at the end of Ogley Hay Road.

## Coroner's court opens its doors

DUDLEY'S historical coroner's court will be throwing open its doors to the public as part of Heritage Open Day next month.

The event, on September 9, is a celebration of the country's architecture and culture, and venues not usually open to the public allow access to enable visitors to discover the hidden treasures lying within.

The Coroner's Court, located on St James's Road, Dudley is a Grade II\* listed building, was designed by Harvey & Wicks, and built between 1924 and 1928, as part of the civic quadrangle. For more details on go to [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

## Young doctors shun surgeries

A THIRD of trainee doctors have been put off working in GP surgeries, according to a new West Midlands study. They would rather be locums or salaried GPs than in a GP partnership.

Research by the University of Warwick found that perceptions about workload pressure was putting young doctors off. Professor Jeremy Dale said: "A sizeable proportion of individuals did not describe their future career plans, perhaps expressing ambiguity about career direction."

## Cadets scheme set to be launched

A POLICE cadets scheme will be launched in the autumn.

It will be rolled out at schools in Birmingham and Sandwell after the start of the new school year with plans to expand across the region in 2018. Pupils at Washwood Heath Academy, Holte School, Shireland Academy and Holly Lodge Science College will have the first opportunity to sign up to the new Volunteer WMP Cadets.

# Region lags behind employment figures

EMPLOYMENT has reached an all-time high in the UK and pay growth picked up pace, easing the pressure on cash-strapped households confronted by higher inflation.

The Office for National Statistics said the number of people in work nationally rose by 125,000 to 32.07 million in the three months to June, with the employment rate climbing by 0.3 per cent to a record 75.1 per cent.

In the West Midlands the number in work was 2.67m, a rate of 72.3 per cent.

The jobs market remained a bright spot for the economy, with the unemployment rate dropping by 0.2 per cent to 4.4 per cent for the three months to June, its lowest level since 1975.

The number of people out of work dropped by 57,000 on the quarter to

1.48m - a 12-year low, but the West Midlands saw the number unemployed rise by 3,000 to 164,000 - 5.8 per cent of the working population.

The claimant count fell nationally by 4,200 in July to 807,800.

The number claiming in the West Midlands was down 970 to 85,505 - 2.4 per cent of the working population.

The biggest drop of 160 was in

Sandwell to 7,055 (3.5 per cent). There were 105 fewer claimants in Walsall at 4,890 (2.9 per cent), Dudley was down 70 to 5,735 (three per cent) and Wolverhampton dropped by 65 to 6,705 (4.2 per cent).

Employment Minister Damian Hinds said: "These statistics show that record levels of people are in work across the country and earning a wage, which is great news."

# Shops face postcode lottery over thefts

By Alex Ross

**SHOPS are more at risk of thefts depending where they are situated in the Black Country, according to new figures which show wide ranges in the number of offences against businesses.**

Fifty cases of shoplifting in the Dudley borough were reported to police in May, and that is compared to 24 in the Walsall borough.

In Sandwell there were 39 and in Wolverhampton 33. Meanwhile, in Solihull, there were just 18 offences. The figures, from a Freedom of Information Act request to West Midlands Police, by the Lib Dems do not surprise traders in Dudley.

Mohammed Sagir, chairman of the Voice of Dudley Businesses, said about the new figures released: "It is a subject which is raised increasingly by members. There are CCTV cameras all around Dudley, but too often we report crimes, get a reference number and then do not hear anything more," Mr Sagir added.

"We want confidence that these people doing it are getting caught."

West Midlands Police did charge 561 in connection with shoplifting offences over the same month.

Sixty six others received a caution during the same period.

For those reported crimes where the value was reported to the police, 24 incidents were for £1 items. The highest value item stolen in a raid was £1,400.

Chief Supt Keith Fraser, force lead for business crime, said: "Some people think of shoplifting as being a 'victimless' crime but the impact it has on everyone should not be underestimated. In addition to the actual cost, these offences can have a detrimental and long-lasting impact on staff who work in shops and stores, the economy and also communities."

## Gertie celebrates her 107th birthday



**Still up to date with news - Darlaston-born Gertrude Talbot with staff at The Elms Residential Home in Bilston** SHE might well be the oldest woman in Wolverhampton now that 'living history book' Gertrude Talbot has just marked her 107th birthday.

The mother-of-one, known as Gertie, continues to take a keen interest in current affairs. She still votes in every local and general election, and enjoys reading newspapers.

Devout Catholic Gertie was born in Darlaston and grew up in Bilston, before her family moved to Moxley. She had nine siblings and a 'very strict' father who made all the children go to Sunday school.

As a child, Gertie remembers enjoying an active life-

style. She said: "I used to walk everywhere when I was younger."

Gertie married her husband William when she was 28 at St Mary's Church, but he died aged 42.

The couple had one son, Peter, who still calls his mother up every day.

Gertie worked at the Bilston Catholic School as a general helper.

She now lives in The Elms Residential Home in Bilston, where home manager Susan Nelhams said: "She is a lovely lady and it is amazing what she has lived through. She is a living history book."

# Alarms will be tested at every high-rise

SMOKE alarms will be tested at every high-rise home tradespeople from whg visit following the Grenfell tower tragedy.

Strict new rules have been enforced stating repairs and inspection will not be marked as complete unless all smoke alarms in the property are tested.

If the alarms do not work then whg will provide temporary ones until arrangements can be made for them to be fixed permanently.

The measures will go ahead in order to reassure customers about fire safety following concerns after Grenfell Tower set fire in June.

Other action taken by whg following the Grenfell tragedy includes having Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) competent surveyors visit each of whg's 17 high-rise buildings.

West Midlands Fire Service is supporting the plans to ensure residents are safe. Pardeep Raw, fire safety officer from the service, said: "We fully endorse whg's stance of regularly testing smoke alarms."

"Smoke alarms have saved lives in the past by giving people audible early warning of fire, which could potentially prove vital. However, such alarms can only be effective if they are regularly serviced and maintained."

"You should have working smoke alarms fitted on every level of your home. They give you vital time to 'get out, stay out and call 999' in the event of a fire."

Security measures are in place such as CCTV directly connected to colleagues in a control room meaning there will be a quick response if there a fire was to break out.

## A star-studded line-up for Pride

THE line-up for Walsall Pride has been announced.

Cheeky Girls will be headlining while X Factor contestants are among the star-studded line-up, including Blonde Electra, Lee Lambert and Sami Brookes.

There are also tribute bands to Madonna and Abba with an appearance from former Celebrity Big Brother contestant Austin Amacost who rose to fame in a reality television series called The A-List: New York which followed the lives of six gay and bisexual men in New York City.

Organisers say it will be a fun day out with a main stage, cabaret marquee, and dance arena along with a large array of market stalls.

It is taking place on Saturday at Gallery Square from midday to 5pm.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bogus workmen arrested at house

TWO bogus workmen were arrested in Aldridge after trying to con residents out of their cash.

The pair had called at the home of their victim in Oakley Avenue offering to do work cleaning and repairing window frames and guttering.

Although the offer was refused, the pair returned a short while later saying they had completed the work and demanded £260. The victim was told to go to their bank and return with it inside an hour. At the bank, the police were called and found the offenders still sitting in their van outside their victim's home from where they were arrested on August 11.

### Exercise sessions for stroke patients

STROKE survivors in Sandwell have been given a new meeting place and the chance to get exercise sessions.

The Rowley Stroke Association Support Group is meeting at the Portway Lifestyle Centre in Newbury Lane.

Chiefs said the group, which has outgrown previous venues, has been helped by Sandwell Council and members can now get together in a large modern room.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 2pm to 4pm. To find out more call 07885 706060.

### Chance to have say on centre closure

A CONSULTATION into the possible closure of the Urgent Care Centre at the Saddlers Centre has launched.

As revealed last month, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group wants to shut down the £1 million facility, which opened in January 2016. It says it will allow an investment of about £500,000 to improve the other urgent care centre at Walsall Manor Hospital.

The public have until September 22 to have their say. CCG chair Dr Anand Rischie said: "The aim of the centre was to reduce the need for a visit to Walsall Manor Hospital A&E."

### Extension planned for sixth form hub

PLANS to expand a Bloxwich secondary school have been submitted to Walsall Council.

The Walsall Academy, in Lichfield Road, wants to build an 'employability hub' in a two-storey extension to the rear of its main building.

A statement on the application submitted to the council reads: "The centre will provide a level of opportunity for professional learning not currently supported by existing facilities."

# I'm no hero, it was pure instinct to help victim

'I'M no hero - it was just instinct to go and help a child so badly injured.'

A father-of-two from Great Barr has described the moment he came to the aid of a young boy in the wake of the terrorist attack in Barcelona.

Talking from his hotel on Las Ramblas, Harry Athwal, aged 44, told how he saw from his seat on the first-floor restaurant balcony the van used by terrorists plough into people.

The project manager who lives off Newton Road, said: "I knew straight away what was happening and got up to run outside to see how I could help.

"When I got out of the restaurant I ran into the middle of Las Ramblas - there were bodies strewn left and right around me including a child right in the middle of it all.

"He was bad. The first thing I did was check his pulse, but there was nothing. At that point I am panicking, the police are screaming at me to get out of the road in case of another van, but I was not going to leave this boy here. I have a son the same age. The next 10 minutes felt like an eternity. Eventually one [paramedic] came and a policeman ordered me away."

## Sixty helpers in library relaunch

PLANS to reopen Pheasey Library as a book exchange are being backed by 60 volunteers, a councillor has said.

The library, in Collingwood Drive, will reopen next week thanks to committed volunteers and community leaders. The service will run for two days a week at first, with the potential for that to increase depending on its initial success. The library was one of nine in the borough that were closed earlier this summer.

Councillor Chris Towle, who has been working with residents to ensure a book exchange service is available and the building remains in use, said he was pleased with how preparations are going. He said: "I think we are looking good ahead of the reopening on September 1."

## Theft bid arrest

A MAN has been arrested after attempting to break into a shed. He was spotted in the garden of a home in Harness Close, Walsall, and was chased by police. The incident happened at 7.30pm on Wednesday.

# Boss of police group calls for pay rise



Tom Cuddeford

WE need a pay rise - that is message from the boss of the body that represents the West Midlands' rank and file police officers.

Tom Cuddeford, chairman of West Midlands Police Federation, said it was time for the Government to show 'support and respect' for front line officers and backed calls for a 2.8 per cent pay increase.

Writing in 'Federation', the group's bi-monthly magazine, Mr Cuddeford said officers had been 'run ragged' and criticised delays in making a decision on this year's police pay review.

He wrote: "We appreciate that in reality

there is no magic money tree, but there are also no magic police officers who can keep making ends meet despite the increased cost of living and their decreased real term wages.

### Review

"Police officers seem to be expected to perform all sorts of tricks as they try to provide the same service with fewer resources but maybe it's time the Government conjured up some solutions too?"

He said the Police Federation of England and Wales was calling for a 2.8 per cent pay rise to the Police Remuneration

Review Board. A decision on the pay review was meant to be taken before the summer but has now been delayed until next month at the earliest.

Mr Cuddeford added: "This is just not acceptable and will cause months of uncertainty for officers at a time when they are already run ragged at work and, in some cases, struggling financially.

"While any pay increase will be backdated to September 1, the date of our annual pay rise - if we get one - it could be months before we actually see any increase in our pay."

# Road rage attacker must pay £2k compensation

## A MOTORIST attacked another driver in Walsall in an outburst of road rage, a court heard.

His victim was left with life-changing injuries which forced him to give up his job and move house, the jury was told.

Dance teacher Navarone Price had been tailgating a Nissan Micra on Primley Avenue, on the Alumwell estate, in June 2015. As he 'roared past', the Nissan driver allegedly made a rude hand gesture which infuriated Price, who slammed on his brakes in front of the victim's car, forcing him to stop.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, said that the two men squared up to each other, with 25-year-old Price threatening to 'box his head in'.

As an unidentified passer-by joined in the row, Price kicked the Nissan and dented the bonnet.

The victim, 55, tried to get the keys from Price's Renault Clio to prevent him from leaving while he phoned the police but Price pushed him from behind causing him to fall.

### Harm

The victim's jumper was pulled over his head and he was dragged along the road and kicked by both men as he lay in the road.

Price, of Haydn Sanders Square, Caldmore, drove off and the other attacker also fled the scene but the defendant was traced by his car registration number. He was convicted by a jury of grievous bodily harm and criminal damage following a three-day trial.

His victim, who had been shopping with his daughter that day, Father's Day, had surgery for torn tendons in both knees. He has been forced to give up his job as a lorry driver as a result. He also had to sell his house and move into a flat as he could not negotiate the stairs.

Mr Andrew Wilkins, defending, said Price was a part-time carer to his mother and gave voluntary dance lessons to disadvantaged children.

Judge Amjad Nawaz sentenced Price to a 21-month jail term suspended for two years and told him he must carry out 150 hours of unpaid work. He must pay £2,000 compensation.

## Kristian takes the baton for city



Kristian Thomas with the baton at the Bullring in Birmingham

Gymnastics star Kristian Thomas proudly held the Queen's Baton aloft as the countdown to the Commonwealth Games reached the West Midlands.

Officials in Birmingham are hoping the baton will be passed onto the city - which is bidding to host the games after Australia in 2022.

The baton - which is the equivalent of the Olympic Torch - was in Birmingham to mark its bid to be in next in line for the prestigious competition.

Wolverhampton's Kristian, an Olympic bronze medallist and Commonwealth champion, who trains in Halesowen, posed in front of the Bullring shopping centre with the baton.

He was among other stars who appeared in the city for the event, which came on the same weekend when Sir Mo Farah ran for the last time on the track in Britain at Birmingham's Alexandra Stadium.

The baton visited other landmarks including Birmingham Library, Edgbaston cricket ground and Brindley Place

Birmingham is going head to head with Liverpool for the right to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022. It will be held in Gold Coast, Australia, next year.

If the bid is successful, part of the Black Country would be involved in hosting the competition.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Never mind nuclear, we talk about burger size

IT is strange how different countries have different priorities. While Donald Trump squares up to that strange little man in North Korea, and the pair threaten each other with nuclear weapons, our own government has a very different target in its sights. Oversized beefburgers.

Public Health England is drawing up new guidelines to reduce the calories in popular foods such as burgers, crisps and sausage rolls. Manufacturers will either have to change the ingredients, or make the burgers thinner, and the crisp packets smaller. Hmm, I wonder which they will choose?

Personally, I can't see it working. After all, you may have noticed that Wipsa bars in multi-packs are smaller than they used to be. I certainly have. Which is why I now eat two every lunchtime.

□ □ □

YOU might remember a few years ago, there was a big furore about how then education secretary Michael Gove was making A-levels tougher to restore their credibility. You know, less coursework, more exams, recalling and analysing facts rather than telling us how they feel. That sort of thing.

Well, Sally Collier, head of the exam regulator Ofqual, thought this was a bit harsh, and lowered the pass mark to compensate.

"I want the message to be that students have done fantastically well. All our kids are brilliant," she said.

But surely, the whole point of the exams is to find out who is brilliant at what, so they can tailor their careers accordingly.

Imagine you are an academically talented teenager, who knew the exams would be tough, and worked day and night get the best results possible. Then you discover that Neil out of The Inbetweeners has got the same grades as you, because the exam regulator says "all kids are brilliant". I think I would feel slightly nudged.

Neil probably won't be too chuffed either when he finds that all his inflated grades entitle him to is the right to spend the next few years racking up thousands of pounds of debt on a qualification worth slightly more than a roll of Andrex.

Wasn't it better for everybody when A-grades were few and far between, when only the top 20 per cent or so went to university, and they didn't have to pay for it? It also meant that instead of entering adulthood with crippling debts, the remaining 80 per cent did useful vocational courses that led to skilled, well-paid jobs.

## Highlighting hares' horrors as pair of heroes pass



Cowboy Glen – gone, but not forgotten, including of course, his famous football



Hare today, but gone tomorrow? thanks to vicious country pursuit in east England



Ty died – the death of a famous TV cowboy and film star, with an amazing real name

# Goodbye to Glen and Ty, best of the west

PANORAMA (BBC1) revealed this week that the number of arrests for drunkenness on UK flights or at British airports has soared by 50 per cent in a single year. Although I've had the occasional tippie at 30,000 feet, I have never entirely understood why airports have bars, why drunks are allowed to board planes and why airline staff, who have to deal with the consequences, are expected to sell booze. It wouldn't happen on the Number 47 bus so why does it happen on an Airbus?

NOT so long ago, any pointless action was described as "taking coals to Newcastle." I was reminded of it a few days ago sitting in the sunshine at a cafe beside Rutland Water, one of the biggest reservoirs in England and drinking bottled water, imported from Scotland.

If you're strapped for cash and your kids are still tiny and impressionable, you could probably take them to Rutland Water, which extends over 3,000 acres, for a day and convince them it was the seaside. I had a colleague whose child was four before she twigged that the "Alton Towers" her father took her to every weekend was actually a car wash.

WHY have the cops not managed to catch the jogger who infamously knocked a woman pedestrian almost into the path of a bus in London three months ago? Probably because in police terms it wasn't much of an incident: pedestrian knocked over, only slight bruises. It is only when the CCTV footage is publicised that the judgement and emotions of the Great

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



British Public take over from the police assessment and it becomes the crime of the century. The video horrifies ordinary people. The man is a brute, the woman is defenceless and did you see how close she came to that bus? A man wrongly arrested for the incident (he was in America at the time) has received death threats, so God knows what the mob will do when the real offender is nicked.

A SUDDEN rise in hare coursing in eastern England has been blamed on an early harvest leaving the fields clear. Well, that may be part of the explanation. But the real reason for killing hares with greyhounds is that some people who like to think of themselves as countryfolk are actually sadistic morons.

I CAME across a website this week identifying which of today's second-hand cars will become "a future classic." The snag, as all motorists know from bitter experience, is the ruinous cost of keeping a banger long enough for it to become a collector's item. Future classic = present money-pit.

I WRITE from family experience. In 1971 my father parted with a troublesome Aston Martin for £1,400 and was glad to get that much.

A similar model was auctioned last month for £495,000.

AFTER this week's item on the late Glen Campbell, a reader tells me of a friend who thought the Wichita Lineman was a song about a football match.

A MOGGIE called Ash appeared in a national newspaper as a cheerleader for the latest fad, walking your cat. Ash, wearing a lead, was taken on a three-day hiking trip to Snowdonia and was pictured sitting on a Welsh hillock, allegedly enjoying himself. But he didn't look happy. His eyes and body-language seemed to say: "Please take me home."

CATS are not natural tourists. They love their own little territory. And while some, including our old tabby, enjoy walking with humans, they do it on their own terms and reserve the right to vanish into the hedgerow or dash home. The moment you put a lead on a cat, you try to turn it into something it isn't. And while some good-natured cats will put up with it, others will invoke the cat's ultimate four-footed revenge, and walk out on you.

IT was a bad enough shock to hear that our 1950s cowboy hero Ty Hardin has just died aged 87. But the greater shock was to discover his real name. The man we remember as rootin' tootin' Bronco Layne was Orison Whipple Hungerford Jr.

## TALKING POINT



# Gearing up for a greener transport

WE live in a world which is being defiled by humankind.

The population explosion over the past decades has seen the Earth set inexorably on course for ecological devastation.

Roads heave with chugging, dirty-fuelled 4x4s and older cars which now go on forever, but which cannot claim to be pollutant-free.

Like drones we line up at the traffic lights, inches away from the car in front as a driver of usually a German car (more often than not!) tries to push in from the right – what kind of existence is this? Surely, there is another way.

The argument for electric cars rattles on, but this is simply rearranging the chairs on the Titanic, as the majority of power stations linked to the National Grid are generated by fossil fuels – so that means it's damaging the atmosphere.

But wait, there may be a Lycra-clad answer to all our problems – those magnificent men and women on their pedalling machines.

Bikes are all about these days, with Britain's ongoing successes in the Olympics and alike. A few years ago a survey was carried out which put the UK in 10th place as the most bike-friendly nation in Europe, with Denmark and Holland sharing top spot. This does not translate itself to the roads however, when at times it can feel more like a war of attrition, sharing lanes with motorised traffic.

I don't seek to defend idiots who think they own the road, two abreast or more. Cyclists should know their position in the pecking order, and it is the ones who think they can jump lights, weave in and out of traffic at speed and not consider pedestrians, who will always give the rest of us who just want to get to work, or ride for the fun of it, a bad name.

On the horizon there are self-charging electric bikes being developed, which will mean we don't all have to be Bradley Wiggins to get around, and even with the technology of electric bikes available now, they are the most environmentally-friendly personal transport available on the roads.

In the meantime however, the message to all road users should be that bikes are here to stay and the police now focus more than ever before on inconsiderate drivers who pose real dangers to cyclists with their thoughtless actions. Nearly 19,000 incidents in 2015 resulted in injury to cyclists on UK roads, with 100 killed.

One last message to anyone on the saddle though – make sure you've got a blooming bell!

GRAEME ANDREW



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# Astonishing call by Gove over subsidies

I WAS astonished to hear that the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, suggests that it is about time farmers started to earn the subsidies paid to them by the state.

Does this man not understand that farmers are paid subsidies in order to produce food for our populations at below the real cost of production? Without subsidies, the real cost of food would be much higher and unaffordable for a large proportion of our people.

It is ironic that a Tory MP and minister with an obscene salary and huge amounts of benefits, also paid, like agricultural subsidies, out of the public purse, should admonish hard working farmers for not earning their subsidies.

A brief look at House of Commons, in which our MPs supposedly earn their salaries, or should I say subsidies, shows it is almost empty for most of the Parliamentary session. Where are these MPs who are absent from their place of work on an almost daily basis? If farmers operated their businesses in a similarly irresponsible and casual manner, this country would be without food.

I am also astounded that a Tory

Minister, who I presume is aware that millions of children throughout the developing world are dying of starvation, should require farmers to reduce food production.

To reduce the amount of food produced by increasing the amount of farm land taken out of normal agricultural production to enable beetles, rabbits and weeds to prosper is, in my mind, a genocidal policy which will inflict even more suffering on those poor kids who are starving to death.

ALAN DAVIS  
Darlaston

## Intervening council must be welcomed

FULL marks for the idea of council intervention into modern regeneration work. Walsall needs business, jobs and investment opportunities.

A council must invest to secure long term benefits for local people. Securing business, jobs and increasing local opportunities for revenue income to assist in defraying the cost of local services.

It is important that every council becomes more flexible in financial markets, investments and growth portfolios.

However, is this the best deal in town?

The Saddlers Centre shopping management will be outsourced and at what cost? Retail Markets are volatile. It appears that one of the motivations for the current proposal is to 'buy it cheap' and trust that the council's investment of public money will grow a dividend over five years.

CLLR DOUG JAMES  
Walsall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Just simply a case of too many people

E&S, August 5, Green Party Councillor Anna Coleman states 'I strongly believe that we have an obligation to live within the limits of our natural environment'. I find this incredible since Green Party policy simply does not support this statement. Globally we are failing to manage the essential elements for life, water, soil and air. Wild creatures and their habitats are being annihilated, plastic and toxic pollution are spreading. Then there is climate change, and the only safe option is to accept it exists.

Nationally we do not have a housing crisis, an NHS crisis, a schools crisis, a prisons crisis and a pollution crisis. What we do have is a population crisis. It is blatantly obvious that the force responsible for destroying the global environment is human population growth.

KEITH WATKINS  
Walsall

## Internet exposes Tory lies

ALAN Etheridge (letter, Aug 4) doesn't seem very impressed with today's young people. One thing they're quite good at, though, is using that internet thingie. Therefore they already know that the tale of Jeremy Corbyn's 'pledge' to do away with all student debt has been refuted.

Spreading this porky was a huge blunder by the Tories. They thought they were being clever to disseminate the story electronically. They had reckoned without the internet's possibility of immediate rebuttal. His pledge was actually for abolition of fees for present and future students.

I hope that Corbyn will use an opposition day to introduce a motion to abolish tuition fees for present and future students. The Tories and their DUP chums will vote it down, clearly showing the hypocrisy of their purported concern for students.

ALAN T HARRISON  
Walsall



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# Retail park will offer more places for eating

A NEW coffee shop and a restaurant will be coming to a major Black Country shopping centre in the latest stage of its regeneration.

A Starbucks branch will open on the upper level of Merry Hill, transforming part of a car park, while a restaurant will be another new addition.

It follows an announcement from Merry Hill owners

**By Clare Butler**

the council on August 11.

Planning documents state: "The main challenge associated with these proposals was to site each building successfully with respect to the retail park as a whole, bearing in mind their proximity to the adjacent grassed banks and minimising the loss of car parking and impact on existing planting."

"Overall these proposals represent a high quality development."

Owner Intu recently bought the building that houses the existing Odeon cinema at Merry Hill and is now in talks with the chain to move it into a new building that would be constructed at the rear of the centre.

Plans were approved by

## Challenge

They will be situated towards the top of the embankment near to The Boulevard and the rear of the existing car parking spaces. Pedestrian access will be via the existing car park.

An outdoor seating area is to be created along with 12 car parking spaces for Starbucks and 11 spaces for the restaurant.

## Clubbing together for new-look venue



Celebrating the club's new lease of life, from left are Angela Timms, Kerry Harper and Sylvia Harper

A LONG-STANDING club has been given a new lease of life after benefitting from a £47,000 makeover.

The King Street Progressive Institute in Walsall Wood has been transformed from a run down club in need of a facelift to a sparkling, fresh-faced venue thanks to a grant from Corey Environmental.

Management say they are delighted after getting the sites roof and heating fixed, as well as the inside of the venue redecorated and are now ready to welcome punters from across the borough.

The club has been on King Street for 85 years but had no improvements carried out for around 35 years.

Sylvia Walker, club president, said: "It was a lot of hard work bidding for the funding, it took a lot of form filling and persuasion but it was all worth it in the end."

Now, the club is ready for a new era, with the first big night after the revamp set for September 2.

The night, called the Magic Detroit Show, will feature six Motown acts, plus DJs.

Mrs Walker said: "We can't wait to welcome guests old and new and we think we have put the perfect night together to really launch our new look venue."

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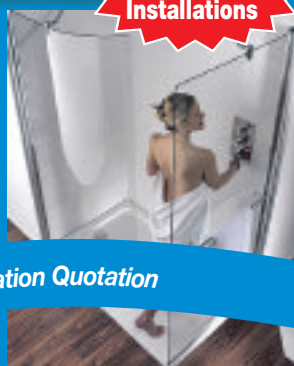
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# Class act! Pupils' delight at their A-level results



Joe Drakeley, Sam Lee, Lewis Fairclough and Nikki Sehra from Aldridge School with their A-level results

**STUDENTS across Walsall schools were left celebrating as they opened their A-level results.**

The majority of students across the borough had huge smiles on their faces as they discovered they had got the grades they needed to head off to university.

One of those off to university is Joe Drakeley from Aldridge School.

The star pupil is heading to Oxford

to read physics after getting an A\* in chemistry and physics and an A in maths and further maths.

Other pupils at the Tynings Lane school off to university include head boy Sam Lee, who secured an A in biology, an A\* in his extended project and B's in chemistry and history. He is off to Birmingham University to study biomedical science.

Fellow pupils Lewis Fairclough and Nikki Sehra are off to Surrey and Leeds Trinity to study chemistry and a primary education degree respectively.

The headteacher at Aldridge School, David Mountney, said: "Our pupils always inspire me with their willingness to work hard and make the best of their talents."

At Joseph Leckie Academy students were also receiving their results.

One of those celebrating was 18-year-old Vicki Freeman.

The Walsall-born student is off to study business management at Wolverhampton University after getting an A and a B in business and a B in ICT.

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# Crews tackle blaze as it tears through farmland



Firefighters spent more than seven hours tackling the flames on eight acres of farmland

**A BLAZE** tore through farmland in Stonnall with firefighters spending more than seven hours tackling the flames on eight acres of farmland.

Crews from Codsall, Tamworth, Rugeley, Lichfield and Cannock attended the fire on farmland just off the A452 Chester Road, Stonnall after receiving a call at 3pm on Thursday.

The blaze, which is believed to have been started deliberately, spread quickly through the field.

Crews arrived just after 3pm, with the Lichfield team being the last to leave at 10.40pm, before returning on Friday morning to check the fire had been put out.

A Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said: "Firefighters managed to put the fire out relatively quickly but due to the nature of the location, some crews had to stay to make

sure that it didn't re-ignite.

"Crews also used a JCB telehandler, usually used for farming work, to help battle the fire."

Finn Naughton, from Stonnall, who witnessed the blaze, said: "It looked as though numerous hay bales had been set alight, with the fire then spreading to a large area of crops."

"Smoke from the fire spread into the village at its height and I saw around 20 firefighters trying to tackle the blaze."



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## Events now nearing end

SUMMER activities in Sandwell's parks have attracted hundreds of young people, according to council chiefs.

Sandwell Council's Youth Service is nearing the end of its series of summer events in the borough's parks.

The Youth Service will be at Lion Farm Playing Fields today, Thursday and tomorrow, Friday.

The final sessions will be held at Victoria Park in Smethwick on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31.

Councillor Simon Hackett said: "My family and I really enjoyed going along to Redhouse Park. It was great to see young people enjoying these free activities."

"I urge parents and carers to bring their children along to these sessions in the coming weeks."

# Bev's pain at losing friend led to being cause patron

**SINGING sensation Beverley Knight told how she was deeply affected by losing a friend to HIV, as she was unveiled as the new patron of the Terrence Higgins Trust.**

The Wolverhampton singer and actress, aged 44, said her friend Tyrone told her about the HIV and sexual health charity, and that she is now on a mission to raise awareness and end the stigma surrounding the disease.

She said: "I lost a very good friend, Tyrone, in 2003 from an aids-related illness, and that loss

still affects me very deeply now. Tyrone leaned on Terrence Higgins Trust quite heavily because of his own HIV status, and he's the person that brought the charity and their great work to my attention."

The singer said she wants to support people to live well with HIV in the UK. Today, HIV is not the death sentence it once was," she said. "Treatment works very effectively, meaning people can live very long, very happy and very fulfilled lives. But as long as they know they have HIV and have treatment, that's the key."

The singer - whose latest album Soulsville features the song When I See You Again - inspired by Tyrone - said there is a 'terrible' stigma

around the illness. She said: "It's a real problem because until we get past the stigma we can't get people to admit to themselves that they could or do have the virus, and therefore need to have a test and get effective treatment."

"Some people just don't think it will ever happen to them, so that's why HIV awareness needs to be at the forefront of people's minds now more than ever."

The trust's chief executive Ian Green said: "Beverley has been a long-standing supporter of the charity and has passionately campaigned to help stop HIV stigma and to ensure people with HIV live healthy and long lives. We are grateful for the unique contribution Beverley makes."

## Music is a boost for animal charity

A LIVE music event to help raise funds towards an animal centre pulled together more than £200.

The show, held at the Black Country Arms, saw performers Lena Lottie, Sean Davies and Russ Handy take to the stage in order to raise cash for Walsall Animal Care.

Organiser Sophie Dallaway said: "I have done this event for two years running now and plan to do them every year."

"I am a volunteer at Walsall Animal Care, which is a rescue for unwanted, neglected and abandoned animals, and I decided last year to help raise some money by doing all of this."

"Last year was a success and we are again delighted with the outcome this year."

"It is for a good cause and also a great way to bring people together."

This years event raised £237.

To find out more about Animal Care, visit facebook.com/walsall.animalcare

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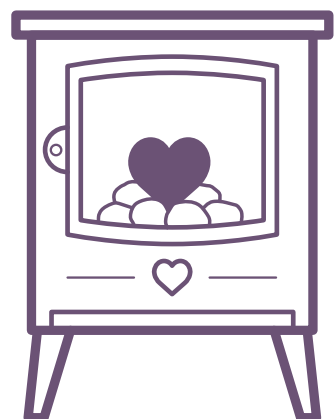
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# Try Aldridge Fireplaces to keep out the winter blues

## Commercial feature

With winter approaching, why not take advantage of some spectacular savings, by visiting Aldridge Fireplaces' showroom in the centre of Aldridge town.

Since relocating to Aldridge nine years ago the company has gone from strength to strength.

They have also added another branch to their collection at Bromsgrove in Worcestershire. "We highlighted Bromsgrove as being a good location which had a good array of surrounding areas," owner Dan Pennell says.

Aldridge fireplaces is a family owned business with brothers Matt and Dan Pennell at the helm. "Our emphasis is based on a relaxed, personal service where we offer a no-rush service," Matt states. "We realise your fireplace purchase is probably a purchase you are only going to make once in around 20 years or even once in a lifetime, so if the customer can't decide in the shop we will visit each individual home to offer our expert opinion."

The stylish showroom features some exclusive marble and Portuguese limestone displays, solid wood and stone surrounds. "We also now offer a wide range of wood burning stoves, that you can browse through brochures at your own convenience," states Dan.

It's been a really positive few years after the company received the most testimonials in 2014 for "most loved fireplace shop" in the UK via the best of Walsall website. "This was an award



An example of some of the many fireplaces on display at the showroom

myself and Matt were really proud of as it was based on testimonials left by our customers," Matt states. They now have well over 100 testimonials on the bestofwalsall website which can be viewed at [www.bestofwalsall.co.uk](http://www.bestofwalsall.co.uk).

The firm's experienced sales staff are also able to offer packages to suit all ages and styles of home, and offer quality products at affordable prices, as well as manufacture bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer if required. In addition to this there is currently FREE FITTING on offer when you purchase any fire with a suite. "But there's also some more good news from this Friday, Saturday and bank holiday Monday, we are carrying out one of our biggest offers to date," Dan

states. "We feel The bank holidays is a great opportunity for families to get out and with this in mind we wanted to offer our best offer yet. This weekend only if you purchase any of our fireplace suites you'll receive 25 per cent off any of our gas or electric fires, this could possibly save you around £200 on average," Matt added.

Aldridge fireplaces will then fit both your newly purchased fireplace and fire for absolutely nothing as well. The offer starts at 10am, tomorrow, Friday, and runs through till Saturday 10am till 4.30pm, Sunday closed and reopening bank holiday Monday 10am till 4.00pm.

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## Firefighters save man and kitten from blaze



A thumbs-up for the kitten which was saved from a flat fire in West Bromwich. Picture @Oldburyfire

A MAN and his kitten were saved by firefighters after a blaze.

Crews were called to a small kitchen fire in a flat in Billhay Lane, West Bromwich just before midnight last Thursday.

Firefighters from West Bromwich and Wednesbury attended.

A fire service spokesman said: "Two firefighters used breathing apparatus and a hose reel jet worked to tackle the fire, with a positive pressure ventilation fan being used to clear the property of smoke."

"Gas and electric of the property were also isolated."

West Midlands Ambulance Service also attended.

One ambulance and two paramedic officers were sent to the incident.

The ambulance service said one patient was treated but not taken to hospital.

## Chance to air views on region's green spaces

PEOPLE have been urged to let council chiefs know which green spaces are important to them as Black Country authorities plan for the region's future.

Residents living in Walsall have until September 8 to have their say on how the Black Country Core Strategy should be updated.

They are being asked to think about which green and environmental spaces matter most, this could be anything from cycle paths to sport pitches or parks, open spaces or areas for wildlife.

Chiefs said the feedback will be used to update the strategy - a planning document which will map out development across the four authorities from now until 2036. This includes where homes should be built and where jobs should be provided.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "The document will not only shape how we continue to protect and improve the local environment but will also set out plans on how people will get around and

By David Cosgrove

how we manage increasing demands for growth in housing and the economy."

The Black Country Core Strategy outlines how many homes need to be built and how to plan for the number of extra jobs needed for a growing population.

The document also says there is a need to find 300 hectares - the equivalent of more than 300 rugby pitches - of new land for industries and businesses in order to create jobs.

People can find out more and take part at blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk or pick up a leaflet from a local library. Alternatively, call 01384 814136.

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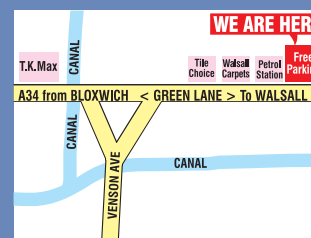
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# Anglers are advised to keep hold of Pacific pink salmon

ANGLERS have been urged to report any catches of Pacific pink salmon with them flagged as a 'high risk' due to abnormally high numbers this year.

West Midlands Police has circulated a warning from the Angling Trust calling on people not to return them to rivers and waterways.

Paul Thomas, who is the trust enforcement manager, said that the population increase was in contrast to the norm. He said: "In previous years anglers have been catching and reporting the odd Pacific pink salmon but this year they have appeared in large numbers as evidenced in the attached paper."

"Our colleagues in Norway and Denmark

are also finding large numbers in their rivers and coasts, Norway has now designated their presence as a 'high risk' mainly as a precaution as we do not know what the impacts would be on native Atlantic salmon if any.

"Previously the UK government designated the threat as 'Low Risk' but this is presently being re-assessed given the high numbers this year."

"We would urge all anglers to follow the advice in the Environment Agency's briefing note if you capture a pink salmon which is if you are confident that you have caught a pink salmon it should be dispatched and retained."

"Please do NOT return it to the river."

# Shaun kicks on for coaching with Saddlers

A SCHOOL pupil from Cannock is getting a real kick out of life, after being awarded a year's free football coaching at Walsall Football Club, in recognition of his achievements both on and off the sports pitch at school.

Shaun Sutcliffe, aged 11, recently left Redhill Primary School in Cannock and will begin Year 7 at Cannock Chase High School in September. During his time at Redhill Shaun has acted at school sports captain and sports ambassador for the school and took part in a whole range of events. He has represented the school (which is the first in the area to achieve Gamesmark Gold twice) in a huge array of sports including; football, netball, athletics, rugby, running and dodgeball.



Shaun with Walsall's goalie Liam Roberts and Swift

Shaun was nominated for the award, in the contest sponsored by Santander bank, by his former sports coordinator and class teacher at Redhill Paul Moberley who has close links with Walsall Community Programme himself.

There were many entries for the competition and whilst he had much to promote his case it was Shaun's outstanding leadership skills that really impressed the judges - community leader Marc Wilkes from Walsall FC and regional manager Claire Butler from Santander.

Mr Moberley said "I am delighted for Shaun and can't think of a more deserving winner. In many years of involvement with school sport I have rarely come across anyone who has shown such commitment and leadership skills as him."

The awards ceremony took place at Santander's Walsall branch and involved staff from Walsall FC and Santander. During this Santander's Claire Butler spoke about the reason's they gave £1000 for the project which related to the organisation's commitment to the community.

# College hosting council's jobs fair featuring dozens of firms

HUNDREDS of career opportunities will be available at Walsall's largest ever jobs fair.

The Jobs and Skills Expo will take place at The Hub, Walsall College, Littleton Street, on September 6.

It will be laid on by Walsall Council for more than 60 employers and training providers, including Walsall FC, NHS Walsall, Accord Housing Association, Homeserve, The Village Hotel, whg housing and the council itself.

Deputy leader Councillor Lee Jeavons said: "We are always looking at ways to support our people looking for work, especially young adults who have just left school, col-

lege or university. Recruitment for seasonal jobs has now begun which is a fantastic opportunity to get your foot in the door and gain some experience."

"There's so many opportunities available in a range of different roles - I strongly encourage anyone who is looking for work to come on down and see what's on offer."

"We are also committed to help local businesses thrive. Our lunchtime session will discuss the benefits of funded training which will help grow their business as well as helping local people progress their careers and get into work."

The fair runs 9am to 4pm.

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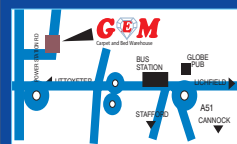
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Customers can even specify the firmness of the seating from soft, medium or firm and can make alterations to the width, depth and height of the furniture guaranteeing your total comfort.

Sofa Gallery is also stockist of leading manufacturers including Wade, Sherborne, G Plan, Alstons, Parker Knoll and David Gundry amongst others.

## Perfect

As it can be difficult to visualise the furniture in your own home, samples of fabrics or leathers can be provided or pattern swatches can be borrowed for you to take home, making sure you have the perfect colour match.

Customers now have an even better selection to choose from with the introduction of the fabulous range of chenille fabrics from Jim Dickens.

Each piece of furniture is made individually by one of their experienced craftsmen, with specific attention to detail following rigid quality control processes throughout.

This ensures Sofa Gallery's exacting standards are met. Sofa Gallery understands that buying furniture is an investment, so all their frames are guaranteed for 25 years from the date of purchase. That way you can enjoy your furniture as well as additional peace of mind. Ian MacDonald, managing director,



The Leonardo sofa is available from Sofa Gallery in Bridgtown, Cannock

says: "We take great pride in the furniture we manufacture and retail. Every piece is made using hardwood frames which are screwed and dowelled and sprung in the base."

"Sofa Gallery even ensures the foam used to fill cushions is of outstanding quality and designed to last."

"This guarantees that the inside of our products are to the same high standard as the outside which is extremely important."

Sofa Gallery firmly believes that chairs and sofas are not merely functional objects for seating, they play an important part in establishing the character of the room they are placed in. All furniture is quality checked

at every stage of production to make sure that high quality standards are maintained, so you can be assured that the furniture you buy will provide years of comfort and satisfaction in your home.

Now is the ideal time to enhance your home with a sumptuous new sofa at fantastically affordable sale prices.

Buying the right sofa is one of the most important decisions for your home as it will be a major focal point for many years to come.

Therefore you need to make sure you are getting great value for money – something that can be difficult in a market place full of mass imported products that often compromise



The Raphael sofa is among the range available

on quality. Attention is paid to customer's after-sales care by the dedicated service professionals.

Nobody enjoys waiting at home all day for a delivery so Sofa Gallery gives customers two-hour delivery time slots.

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You can view all of Sofa Gallery's products online via its website at [www.sofagallery.co.uk](http://www.sofagallery.co.uk) and its Cannock showroom is open seven days a week. Call in and see a wide selection of models or call 01543 505696 to speak to one of its friendly sales team who are happy to help.



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# Judge's grim warning as fly-tipper is jailed

**A PROLIFIC fly-tipper has become the first man in his borough to be sent to prison for dumping rubbish after being caught on camera fly-tipping at a beauty-spot.**

Jamie Humpage, aged 28, of Booth Close, Walsall was sentenced to six months in prison at Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting to a string of similar offences.

The first of eight offences he pleaded guilty to took place in Coppice Lane, Brownhills, and the remaining seven were in Back Lane, Aldridge.

It is the first time that a custodial sentence has been handed down by a judge for fly-tipping in the borough.

## Shameless

Walsall Council's legal services team put the case together against the shameless fly-tipper after gathering evidence from residents, community protection officers and the borough's clean and green team.

Photographs were shown in court of Humpage dumping mattresses, wardrobes and other rubbish alongside an accomplice from a white van, which he had been driving without insurance, while looking around to see if they were being watched.

In his summary district judge Graham Wilkinson said: "These offences are so serious I'm going to give Mr. Humpage a custodial sentence and ban him from driving."

"Fly-tipping is a blight on our environment and a clear message must be sent out to other people warning them that fly-tipping for commercial gain will not be tolerated."

Thursday's ruling has been welcomed by council bosses as 'good news'



**Humpage caught fly-tipping on camera**

for the borough as it looks to tackle fly-tipping, which costs the authority £460,000 a year.

Councillor Ian Shires portfolio holder for community protection at Walsall Council said: "It's good news for Walsall, that this man will now go to prison for his actions."

"The photographic evidence used in court clearly shows where your 'out of



**The rubbish left behind**



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sight, out of mind' rubbish ends up – slap bang in some of our most loved beauty spots.

"You have a responsibility to dispose of it properly and if you don't and we trace evidence back to you, you will find yourself in court, too."

"As the judge says, fly-tipping is a blight on our streets, open spaces."

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Owen Perks, aged 11, who raised £822, with a sponsored walk, for Tommy Brown at The Light Cinema Experience, Walsall

## Owen, 11, clocks up miles for youngster

NEARLY £1,000 has been raised from a charity walk for a little boy who has had his legs, arm and fingers amputated.

Tommy Brown, from Walsall, was struck with meningitis as a baby and doctors were forced to amputate both his lower legs, his right hand and some of the fingers on his left hand.

Since then, supporting the Tommy Brown's Future campaign has been launched, with the view to raising

£100,000 for artificial limbs for when he's aged 18.

Young Owen Perks, decided to do his part to help, walking seven miles from Wolverhampton to Walsall.

The 11-year-old set about raising £500 and ended up raising £822.05 after completing the walk in two-and-a-half hours with his mother.

### Updates

Community fundraiser Jag Posey, said: He has done a few smaller fundraisers for Tommy, but he wanted to do that bit more. He'd raised £140 with cake and cookie sales, but he'd

set the target of £500 – he's actually got closer to £1,000. They kept lots of updates on social media. He's a kid with his heart in the right place and he loves helping people."

The walk started from Wolverhampton bus station and ended up at the Light Cinema in Walsall, where a group awaited for Owen's arrival. Julie Tuckley, Tommy's mother, thanked Owen and all those who donated to the cause, with thousands of pounds already raised for Tommy.

She said: "I'd like to thank everyone who donated and especially Owen for getting involved."

## Kristian sets bar high

OLYMPIC medal-winning gymnast Kristian Thomas has celebrated a successful first year as a student at the University of Wolverhampton.

The Wolverhampton-born athlete, who won bronze at London 2012, successfully completed his first year of a BSc (Hons) Strength

and Conditioning degree with the university's Institute of Sport.

The 28-year-old, who married his partner Gemma in July, is looking forward to returning to the university's Walsall Campus in September to begin the second year of his studies. Kristian, who was captain of the Great Britain's men's gymnastics team at Rio 2016, said: "It has been quite exciting and fairly busy juggling my studies, training, competing and a

few external things but it's something I'm glad I decided to do after being out of education for 10 years.

"After the first month at university you settle down and it all becomes part of your routine. I've really enjoyed my first year.

"The hardest thing is making sure I get the balance right – that I'm training at the level I need to be, my grades are where they need to be and my home study is at the right level."

## Over the moon with shirts donation

MEMBERS of the Walsall Supporters Trust board have thanked the club for their contribution towards sending kits out to Sierra Leone.

A relationship started between the club and people living in the West African country last year after Steve Davies, secretary of the Walsall FC Supporters' Trust, spread the word of the Saddlers to native football fans. Now, as people living in the Freetown area recover from a mudslide which has taken hundreds of lives, official club shirts have been

sent over to the Walsall FC Sierra Leone team set up as a reminder of the visit.

Mr Davies said: "On behalf of our members, the Trust Board would like to thank Walsall Football Club and WFC Commercial Manager Wayne Thomas for their kind donation of 16 shirts and 16 pair of shorts, previously used by the WFC reserve team throughout the 2015/16 season, which will be sent over to our team in Sierra Leone as soon as possible."



Steve Davies and the Sierra Leone Walsall team last year

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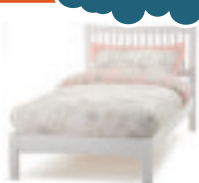
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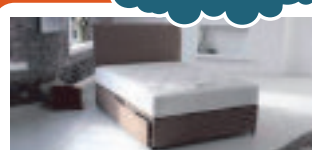
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# 201908 Wolves cup win medal goes under hammer

A FOOTBALL club director's 18-carat cup-winning medal will be going under the hammer next week.

The gold winner's medal for 1908's FA Cup triumph is coming up for sale at Mullock's football and rugby memorabilia auction at Ludlow Racecourse next Thursday, with a guide price of £4,000 to £4,200.

A spokesman for Mullock's said: "The medal is 18-carat gold and produced by Vaughtons of Birmingham, weight 31g. It was awarded to E Barker, a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers. It comes complete with gold link chain and is presented in a frame measuring 27cm to 21cm approximately."

Wolves' 1908 FA Cup final success was against the odds, with opponents Newcastle United having appeared in three of the past four finals, although they were yet to win.

Wolves won 3-1 in the final held at Crystal Palace Park. It was their second FA Cup victory.

Early FA Cup memorabilia is highly sought-after by collectors and usually does well at auction. In May 2012, £20,000 was paid for an official one penny match card from the 1909 FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Bristol City.

## Artists' society will continue annual show

WOLVERHAMPTON Society of Artists' annual exhibition runs in the city's art gallery from September 23 to November 19.

The free admission exhibition, which has run since 1884, will also feature an open studio weekend, talks from some of the artists and drawing sessions.



The 1908 medal



The team of medics who pitted their skills against the former pros



Ex-midfielder Seyi Olofinjana, left, charges through the midfield



The two skippers Mel Eves and Chris Jukes



Eves rolls back the years to deliver a cross



There were a lot of familiar faces in the Wolves All-Stars team



Taking the lead - a four-legged fan watches on during the 10-goal thriller

# Medics put heart into match

HOSPITAL staff who took on a team of Wolves All-Stars were in need of some resuscitation themselves after a hard-fought match at Chasetown Football Club.

The gold and black veterans showed they had lost none of their skills as they coasted to

a convincing 7-3 victory over a team of heart and lungs medical staff from New Cross Hospital.

The game, which formed part of a fun day at the Scholars ground, raised more than £3,000 for the Wolverhampton Coronary Aftercare Support Group. The group pays for medical equipment and research.

The gates were open three hours before kick-off as visitors had fun

trying out bouncy castles, an assault course, face painting and more.

Organisers also laid on a range of food and drink, and a raffle was held, with prizes donated by companies including Pure Gym Hednesford and Porsche Wolverhampton, which helped to bump up the total.

Among the former Wolves favourites were Mel Eves, Colin Taylor, Andy Turner, Micky Holmes, Jackie

Gallagher, Tony Dinning, Dale Rudge, Seyi Olofinjana, Neil Edwards, Paul Jones, Simon Osborne and Jon Purdi. On the Cardiothoracic Theatres team was event organiser Christopher Jukes, an operating department practitioner, who scored two of his side's three goals.

He said afterwards: "I'm absolutely exhausted but it was a great game and good fun. I'm delighted we

managed to raise so much money. It was so successful we are hoping to turn it into an annual event."

One piece of equipment the cash will potentially fund is an £80,000 transoesophageal echocardiogram machine, known as a TOE, which measures patients' heart valves.

The Coronary Aftercare Support Group has raised more than £2 million since it was set up in 1985.

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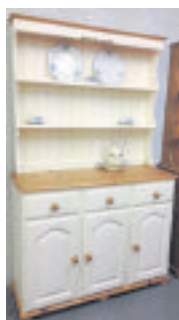
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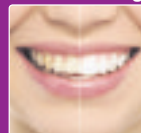
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# TV's The Chase star Paul Sinha brings his stand-up routine to comedy night



Star of TV's The Chase Paul Sinha will perform in Brum

**CHASER** Paul Sinha will entertain fans with a comedy show in Birmingham next month.

The ITV game show star will perform at Pizza Express, Brindley Place.

Whilst studying medicine in the 1990s, Paul took his first steps on the stand-up comedy circuit. He pursued both careers and at the 2006 Edinburgh Festival earned a nomination for the highest accolade in live comedy, the Edinburgh Comedy Award. Shortly afterwards, Paul hung up his stethoscope to become a full-time comedian (and also a Chaser).

He will be joined by fellow comedians

Mick Ferry and MC Andy Robinson.

Mick Ferry has recently starred in BBC One's Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow as well as Comedy Blue and The Comedy Store for Comedy Central. He also regularly performs at The Comedy Store in London and Manchester.

## Hysterics

Andy Robinson, meanwhile, began his stand-up career in the early '90s, when he played guitar in a band named 'The Carpetsweepers,' often leaving both members of the audience in hysterics as his patter between songs gradually became longer and more entertaining than the music.

Andy has also been the support act for Sean Lock, Rich Hall, Rhod Gilbert and Paddy McGuinness.

The trio come to the city centre Pizza Express branch on September 27.

Doors to the show open at 6.30pm, with the show set to start at 8.30pm.

Andy Robinson will be on at 8.30pm, with Mick Ferry on at 8.45. There will then be an interval, after which Andy Robinson will return at 9.30pm, for Paul Sinha to begin at 9.45pm.

It is intended to end at 10.15pm, though all timings are subject to change.

Tickets, priced at £19, are now on sale.

## Fancy a shiny red phone box? Yours for a pound

TIME is running out for communities to adopt their local phone boxes. BT is set to scrap half of the UK's remaining phone boxes following a fall in usage - including dozens of the iconic red landmarks.

Around 20,000 phone boxes are set to be removed over the next five years following a 90 per cent decline in use over the last decade. It was announced last year that more than 150 phone boxes in the Black Country and Staffordshire faced being scrapped. Some of these have already been adopted.

For a nominal fee of £1, BT will remove the phone and hand the kiosk over to the local community. Some of those already adopted now house defibrillators following a campaign from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

Other obsolete boxes are being used as libraries or to showcase artwork.

Although 33,000 calls a day are still made from phone boxes, a third are only used once a month, and some are never used at all. Spiralling maintenance costs have led to plans to scrap the iconic boxes but BT is giving local authorities the chance to save them.



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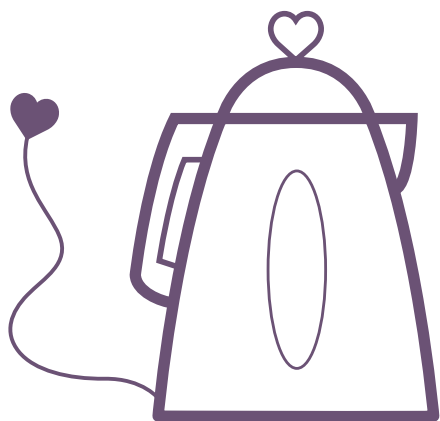


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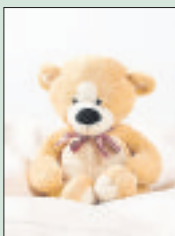
# Bedtime can spark tears, mood swings and tantrums

LIGHT evenings and school holidays can make bedtime a challenge, but for 40 per cent of parents, the mere mention of the words "time for bed" results in mood swings, tantrums and tears according to a new survey from online parenting resource Families Online ([www.familiesonline.co.uk](http://www.familiesonline.co.uk)).

Some parents said their children also get angry at bedtime and some admitted their child gets scared at the prospect of going to bed which can present further challenges in getting children to sleep.

## HOURS SPENT GETTING CHILDREN TO SLEEP...

Almost 1,800 parents across the UK (with children up to the age of eight years) were polled on their child's bedtime routine. The results also showed that parents are spending a considerable amount of time each night on bedtime routines with a quarter of parents admitting that they spend over an hour every evening getting their child into bed and a further 52 per cent (more than half) spend 30 to 45 minutes.



## WHAT TIME IS BEDTIME?

When it comes to deciding what time is 'bedtime' most parents (57 per cent) will aim to have their children in bed between 7pm and 7.30pm each evening (meaning for many, that the bedtime process has to start around an hour earlier than this). For 25 per cent of parents, 8pm to 8.30pm is deemed to be bedtime and is more likely to be reflective of parents with older children in the category. Only one per cent of parents said their child has no set bedtime suggesting that UK parents are sticklers for a regular bedtime routine.

## PARENTS ADMIT TO GIVING SWEETS AND BISCUITS AT BEDTIME...

Parents were also quizzed on their rules around eating at bedtime with a firm 60 per cent saying they do not allow their child to have any kind of snack at bedtime. Almost a quarter of parents (24 per cent) say they will allow a healthy snack at bedtime (such as a piece of fruit). Interestingly, even though most parents are aware that too much sugar can have an impact on a child's ability to sleep, 16 per cent of parents still say they will offer their child biscuits and sweet treats at bedtime too, in a bid to get them to settle.

## STAYING UP ON A SCHOOL NIGHT?

On the topic of staying up later than 10pm on a school night, a resounding 74 per cent of parents say they would not allow this. Just under a quarter of parents (23 per cent) said they would allow it but only on a special occasion. A final three per cent said they regularly allow their child to stay up beyond 10pm on a school night.



Bedtime routines were also found to involve a whole host of elements from singing songs to brushing teeth and leaving lights on. According to parents, bedtime routines were reported to involve:

- A warm drink
- Brushing teeth
- Music / singing
- Musical/interactive toys
- Stories / Reading
- Hot water bottles
- Leaving lights on
- Snacks
- Soft toys to cuddle
- Bath / wash

Faye Mingo, mum of two and director of marketing at Families, said: "As back to school looms, parents will look to regain some kind of order and routine with bedtimes and it can be tricky to manage, especially if you have children of varying ages."

"It can be challenging to rationalise to younger children that older siblings can stay up later. As parents we are aware of the importance of sleep and this poll suggests that parents are keen to instill a regular routine despite it often being a stressful time of the day. Children get overtired, especially after a day at nursery or school and emotions can run high, so bedtime often goes hand in hand with tears and frustration."



Grace Smith, from Bridgnorth, when she signed for Aston Villa



England's Lucy Bronze, left, and the Netherlands' Danielle van de Donk battling for the ball

# Why football should not be just 'a man's game'

By Lauren Taylor

**IN case it's passed you by this summer, women's football is a big deal right now.**

The UEFA Women's Euro 2017 saw record numbers tuning in to watch the matches on Channel 4.

England may have lost to Holland (who went on to win, so we're fine with that), but it drew the biggest-ever UK audience for a women's football match – and the Lionesses had an impressive run in the tournament. They smashed Scotland 6-0 in their opening game and Jodie Taylor scored the first hat trick by an English footballer since Gary Lineker in 1986. The quarter-final saw their first victory over France in 43 years.

"To see such powerful, athletic and talented women performing on an international stage is nothing short of inspirational," says Lisa Pearce, CEO of London FA, the first woman to hold the position.

It's an exciting time for women's football – and not just professionally. In the face of dated stereotypes that sadly still hang around, the likes of captain Steph Houghton, Jodie Taylor and Lucy Bronze campaign tirelessly to grow the profile of women's football and drive participation at grassroots level.

Locally, Aston Villa and England u17 star Grace Smith has gone back to her old school in Bridgnorth to help inspire the next generation of footballers.

Former Oldbury Wells pupil Grace Smith took time out from training to chat about her memories of school and her life since leaving.

After answering questions, Grace gave the year seven girls an hour-long masterclass, including some of the drills she had picked up as part of her England training.

But if you were never encouraged to play football as a child, donning a full strip and jumping on a full-sized football pitch for 90 minutes of football might seem like a pretty alien concept.

## What football can do for your fitness

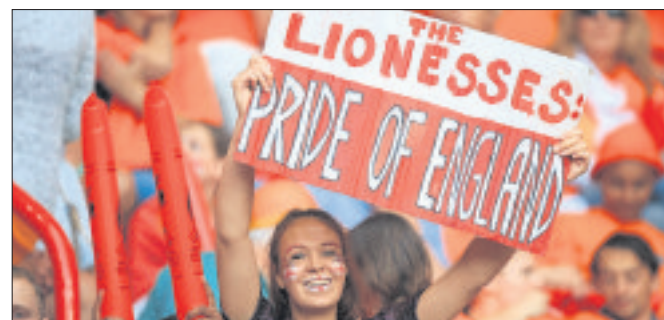
Running for 90 minutes, or even less in a five aside match, is always going to be good for anyone's fitness, but the twists, turns, sprints, kicks and stop-start nature of the game have additional benefits.

"In a game of football, a distance of roughly 13km is covered, with around 15% of that distance covered at high speeds," says Jonathan Hawkins, fitness advisor at Discount Supplements. For the average female, roughly 780 calories are burned in an average 90-minute match."

A 2010 study by Copenhagen university, involving 50 researchers in seven countries, found football 'provides a broad spectrum of health and fitness effects that are at least as pronounced as for running, and in some cases even better'.



Grace Smith shows off her football skills at her old school, Oldbury Wells in Bridgnorth



A England fan shows her support in the stands during a Women's Euro 2017 match

## But how many women actually play?

Nearly three million women play some form of football in England. There are nearly 6,000 women and girls' football clubs at the moment and the FA are aiming to double that by 2020, and this year there's a big push to make that happen through recreational football opportunities and at club level.

Lisa says: "Women's football is the fast-

est growing sport in the UK in terms of participation for a reason and there's no easier sport that you can pick up and play. Whatever age or ability you are, all you need is a football and a free bit of grass area, even in the privacy of your back garden, and you can get going on the basics of the game."

And the Lionesses are a big part of making it happen, says Kelly Simmons MBE, the FA's participation and development

director. "They're really aware of how important their role in promoting the sport is. They all want this generation of girls to play and we know we have to break down barriers."

"The players want to promote the sport in the right way."

## Why we need to encourage young girls to get involved

It's not uncommon to hear women say they never got the chance to play football at school and that girls were sent to do gymnastics or play netball instead. Kelly says that now 96% of primary school boys play football, compared to 41% of girls.

"It is a bit of a postcode lottery," she says. "We have got girls' football teams in primary and secondary schools, but it's not universal."

Kelly adds: "There are parents who still think football is for boys and we know there are girls who think, 'I really like football, but it's for boys'."

But things are changing. There are programmes to help provide teaching resources in schools, and the FA are working with Premier League clubs to ensure there are pathways for girls to play club football. They recently launched a programme called Wildcats for 5 to 11-year-olds. "There's been a lot of research into the barriers to girls playing football and what they want, which is fun, friends and fitness," says Kelly. "But if we don't get them by 8 or 9, then they think, 'It's a boys sport' or 'I don't want to make a fool of myself'. It's about giving every girl the opportunity to play whatever sport they fall in love with."

## Be part of changing perceptions

You only have to look at Twitter during the broadcasting of a women's football match to see that some men don't think women should be playing football at all.

"It's absolute nonsense," Kelly says with a laugh, "and you can't win some people over, but I think it's changing. You don't get many comments from people who have seen it and are critical, it's normally people that have a preconception. That's not just a problem for women's football though, there's women's rugby and cricket too."

"There's also a lot of positive comments about the women's team - from men and women - and people who haven't seen the sport before who are impressed with the standard and the physicality of it."

## What does the future hold?

Kelly thinks we should look at the US where 'soccer' is very much a male and female sport, and always has been.

"They're number one in the world with mass participation numbers, and there isn't the same gender divide around it."

To find a women's football club near you, visit the [www.thefa.com/womens-girls-football/get-involved](http://www.thefa.com/womens-girls-football/get-involved).



# We must not let them build on Chase

NOTHING would be safe if developers are allowed to build on Cannock Chase the former leader of the Green Party has warned. Natalie Bennett joined the campaign to protect the beauty spot.

She joined Councillor Paul Woodhead to meet neighbours in Cannock Wood who voiced concerns about potential plans to build on Cannock Chase, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is part of Cannock District Council's Local Plan in which they aim to build 5,300 houses by 2028. Proposals were put forward in January about where new houses could possibly be built and one of the sites is within Cannock Chase which could see the development of 500 new houses.

Ms Bennett, said: "Almost nothing would be safe if we developed in an area like this, it would be utterly the wrong direction to be heading in."



Former Green Party Leader - Natalie Bennett meets with Cannock Wood residents

# Drink-drive crashes leave 400 injured in four years

THE number of people injured in car crashes caused by drunk drivers across the Black Country has hit nearly 400 in the last four years, latest figures show.

Since 2013 the annual number of casualties has stuck at around 100 a year - with a rise in 2015 when those hurt in drink-driving accidents hit 121.

The figures, released through a Freedom of Information request, include drivers, passengers and pedestrians who were either killed or injured in drink-drive collisions. Some 60 per

cent of casualties are people other than the driver in the 398 crashes.

They follow statistics released earlier this month showing the West Midlands saw the second highest number of arrests in the country for drink drivers involved in serious accidents.

West Midlands Police says it has maintained a sharp focus on clamping down on drink driving in recent years, despite the number of traffic officers on the region's roads halving in the past decade. Wolverhampton saw the highest total with 104 casualties between 2013 and 2016 - although the number fell dramatically from a high in 2015 of 32 to just 14 last year. Last year also saw a similarly sharp fall in

Walsall with deaths and injuries dropping from 30 in 2015 to 15.

The reverse was true in Dudley where casualties caused by drink drivers almost doubled from 18 in 2014 to 32 last year. In Sandwell, too, the number or those injured or killed shot up from 18 in 2014 to 30 last year.

Brake, the road safety charity, has joined others in calling for the drink-drive limit to be lowered.

They want to lower the limit to 50mg alcohol/100ml blood. The current limit is 80mg alcohol/100ml blood. Gary Rae, Brake's director of campaigns, said: "Drink driving remains one of the biggest causes of devastating road crashes."

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# Killer gets 24 years jail for murder of partner

**FOUL-TEMPERED** Ronald Cooke is starting at least 24 years behind bars after savagely murdering his partner of 17 years.

The 55-year-old was furious with Tina Billingham because he had been stopped from going to see a camper van offered for sale and blamed her for missing the bargain after she had to collect her elderly uncle from a long stay in hospital.

Burly Cooke goaded the slightly built 5ft 4ins tall 54-year-old, repeatedly prodding her with a plastic bottle on the trip to the hospital from their home in Granville Road, Old Hill, on February 6.

Then he stopped their van, reached for the sword stick he kept in the vehicle and stabbed her twice through the heart and liver.

## Frightened

The callous car dealer then drove straight to her GP's surgery at Rowley Healthcare in Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis where he told staff she had stabbed herself. Paramedics took her to hospital where she was certified as dead the same day.

Cooke had a 'fascination' with knives, swords and bayonets as well as a history of aggressive, destructive behaviour. Miss Billingham was frightened of him and was driven to depression by his bullying.

On the day she died he had destroyed the house phone, smashed her mobile and thrown a toy box.

Her eldest son Harry, aged 30, explained: "When Ron was not in a good mood he shouted and acted aggressively. He would smash things; TVs, tables, ornaments. It would happen



Murder victim Tina Billingham

every few months. If mum didn't keep the house clean he would shout at her, calling her scruffy and a tramp. He deliberately damaged things she liked such as her clothes and her leather three-piece suite."

Younger son Jack told police: "Although mum put on a happy face she told me she didn't want to live like this and didn't want to have to slip out to see me."

Cooke admitted checking the mileage on her car to confirm she had been



Jailed - killer Ronald Cooke

where she said she had gone. Jack continued: "It was a controlling relationship."

Judge James Burbidge QC told Cooke: "She was selfless. You were entirely selfish. You took a ferocious weapon and thrust it into her body twice. You had treated her abysmally all day over a trifle. You had been delayed in viewing a camper van."

Miss Billingham's son Jack said after the case: "A huge part of our life has been taken from us."

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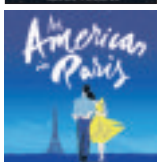
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Fred Wright looks for more birthday messages

MILLIONS of people, including a few celebrities, marked Fred Wright's 91st birthday after a photo of him celebrating went viral.

Fred, of Burntwood, was snapped marking his birthday at the St Giles Computer Social Group, which meets at its Lichfield hospice.

Twitter analytics showed that Fred's picture reached more than five million people. On Facebook it had been liked 2,700 times. He had birthday messages from Boy George, Janice Long and Cerys Matthews. He's even got his own hashtag #MakeFredFamous.

St Giles community engagement manager Ian Leech said: "Fred's a fantastic example of someone who is still learning in their tenth decade so it seems a brilliant opportunity to show that on social media. We expected maybe 100 likes on Facebook and some retweets but really didn't expect the response we got."

# Rail fares rise is 'kick in teeth' for travellers

A RISE in rail fares for Midland passengers next year has sparked an angry reaction and led to increasing calls for the railway industry to be re-nationalised.

Rail unions stepped up their calls for the industry to be bought back into public ownership, with Rail, Maritime and Transport union leader Mick Cash

By John Corser

to analysis released by the TUC and RMT.

The RMT estimates that the 3.6 per cent fare hike, which takes effect on January 1, means a minimum of an extra £337 million in revenue for the train operating companies.

TUC Midlands Regional Secretary Lee Barron said: "Following the recent cancellation of the electrification of the Midlands mainline this latest rail fare increase is yet another kick in the teeth for rail commuters in the Midlands."

A Department for Transport spokesman said: "We have always fairly balanced the cost of investment between the taxpayer and the passenger."

Rail fares have risen more than twice as fast as wages in the past decade according



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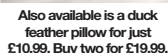
Post 16 Open Morning: Wednesday 11/10/17 09:00 - 12:00

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D7469	Single 9 Tog	£34.99	£69.99
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# Deborah's Led a life less ordinary

**S**he hails from one of the greatest rock families of them all. Rock'n'blues singer Deborah Bonham grew up as her big brother, John, was becoming the greatest drummer in music history. The Led Zeppelin powerhouse was fast, powerful and had his own distinctive groove. Though he died at the tragically young age of 32, he left a legacy that lasts to this day.

Deborah was eight or nine when Led Zeppelin started to take off. And she imagined that his 'job' – of touring the world, recording number one hit records and having fans fall at your feet – was perfectly normal. As you would, at the age of nine.

"Where John's talent came from, nobody can say. I think it's something you are born with. From the age of two or three, he was bashing pots and pans. When it took off for me, I was so young. I grew up with it. I grew up in the thick of it. I just thought that was a normal way of life. I thought you made an album and it went straight to number one."

"Believe me, I later learnt that was not always the case. But I was very young when he joined Led Zeppelin, I was only six or seven. I had a false understanding of the music industry to be fair. But I always knew I wanted to sing."

Not that John – or, indeed, Deborah's mother and father – wanted her to follow in her illustrious brother's footsteps. "It wasn't something my brother or mum and dad wanted me to happen. Especially after seeing what the industry was like, with John. He was right too. It wasn't any place that he wanted his kid sister to be."

"So I did a bit of opera singing to start with. But I just loved blues/rock. And I love performing live. I was always going to do it. You can't deny what's in your heart."

Her parents encouraged her to succeed at school instead of pursuing her improbable dreams of being a rock singer. She took their advice, to a point. "One great thing I did was learn to speak French at school. I sort of stuck with it and now, for me, one of the best places to tour is France. I often think of my brother and mum and dad telling me to stop at school and learn and I think of how I mastered French because, of course, it paid off. Except I use the language to help me sing the blues."

Deborah, who hails from Redditch, is back on her old stomping ground soon with a headline gig coming up at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on September 22. It's her second in the region in recent times. Back in May she headlined Birmingham's Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers, the former Free vocalist who also sang with Queen. The Paul Rodgers gigs were a blast and Deborah is looking forward to being back in the West Midlands.

"I'm really excited about it. I can't remember the last time I played Wolverhampton, it was many years ago. I love it up there. Any chance I get to come and play up there is great. We did Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers and that was one of the most amazing gigs."

She used to spend most of her life in the Black Country, hanging out with bands and watching gigs.

"We always used to come over. I saw Slade. I remember seeing them at the Wulfrun Hall and they were bloody brilliant. They were a real rocking band."

She also played a gig when

Singing the blues – Deborah Bonham returns to the Slade Rooms



'Uncle' Robert Plant turned up to do a duet – much to the surprise of fans. That was at Huntingdon Hall, in Worcester, not far from Robert's Kidderminster home.

"Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history with Led Zeppelin, was a massive moment. Robert's been like a brother or uncle to me. That was at Huntingdon Hall. He turned up and got up to sing with me, unbeknownst to the audience."

That was a high moment. When things like that happen, it's an honour isn't it.

"But there's been a lot of amazing moments in my life. Every day I think how lucky I've been. I was a big fan of one of the all time greatest female vocalists, Ann Peebles, who had a hit with I Can't Stand The Rain. We ended up doing something together, a few shows, and we recorded a version of Can't Stand The Rain."

"I've been extremely blessed because I've had the joy of playing with the most incredible people. To get up on stage with Humble Pie, when they reformed with Peter Frampton, was incredible and I guess the Paul Rodgers thing was another recent highlight."

Deborah has other memories of Wolverhampton – and not all of them musical. Like so many Midlands rock stars, she's a fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers and has enjoyed seeing them play.

"It's the home

*Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history, was a massive moment*

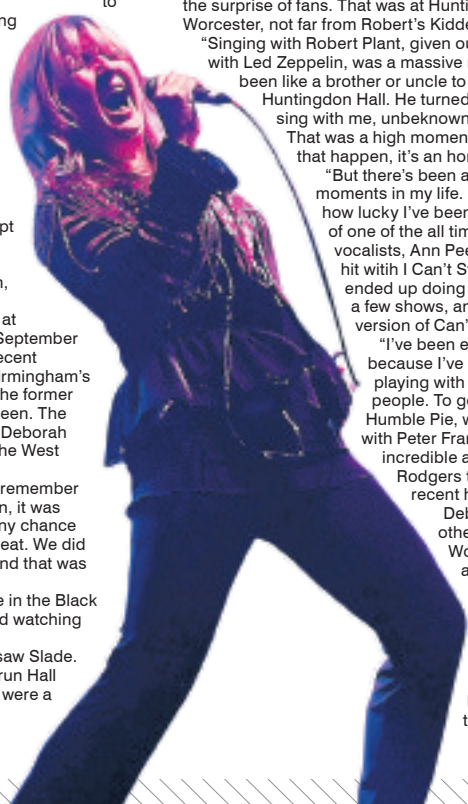
ground of Wolverhampton Wanderers and I've got to say I'm a fan. I went to the Wolves on one occasion to see them play Liverpool. We thrashed them. We stopped off at those Bathams pubs on the way for a drink. Everybody thought we'd get thrashed but I think we must have put five passed them that day."

She's grateful for the way her life turned out and says she owes much of her success to growing up with John and the rest of her family in a musical household.

"I guess my mom and dad were very musical. My mom always sang a little, not seriously but, but she loved good music. They were fans of the big bands like Count Basie. That was pretty much John's focus too. My dad loved all the black soul divas like Lena Horne and Mahalia Jackson. He would play a lot of that music. I grew up listening to that. Both my brothers, John and Michael, got into the Motown stuff, as well as the rock. It was a real eclectic house. I was listening to Jimi Hendrix and Joplin and all of that, CSN and Fleetwood Mac, but I was also steeped in the British movement and The Kinks. Then Zeppelin took off and everything changed."

● Tickets are available from the venue.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.





Parquet Courts – album and tour



## Holding Courts on matters of the heart

New York art rockers Parquet Courts follow their latest album *Human Performance* with a UK visit including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday, August 31.

The band, who have a sound akin to Beck, Talking Heads and Franz Ferdinand, have released fifth album *Human Performance*, their second via Rough Trade.

Whereas other Parquet Courts albums were recorded in days or weeks, for *Human Performance* the band took an entire year and it's the first LP that finds all four band members contributing songs.

The album brings sonic experimentation and melodic introspection to matters of the heart, matters of humanity, of identity. "I told you I loved you, did I even deserve it when you returned it?" singer/guitarist

Andrew Savage wonders on the title track. It's also their most pop-oriented collection yet, coming only months after the release of the largely instrumental *Monastic Living* EP, that was made at the same time.

Across six years, four full-length albums, and two EPs, Parquet Courts have littered their lyrics with question marks. If previous album 2014's *Content Nausea* – with Savage and Austin Brown recording as Parkay Quarts – looked at anxiety in the age of big data, then on *Human Performance* the question marks get turned on themselves.

"There is a lot of darkness, and general anguish being worked out on this record," Brown adds. "But it ends kind of peacefully, kind of accepting that you can't do much about it."

## Cole gets a kick out of comedy venture



Comedy fans will be able to get their kicks at Walsall Football Club in a forthcoming feast of laughter.

The Just For Kicks show, to be staged at the Banks's Stadium on October 27, is the mastermind of Wednesbury-born comic Jonny Cole, pictured. It will feature TV comics Joe Lycett, from Birmingham, and Phoenix Nights' Archie Kelly alongside Dudley's Wayne Beese.

Cole is the driving force and he hopes to make it a regular feature. The former diesel salesman has

emerged as an unstoppable musical-comedy force since his re-workings of well-known tunes have proved popular with audiences all over Britain. He was a headline act on the UK tour of A Black Country Night Out and has been a regular on local radio shows. He has even had a local beer named Fat Face in his honour by Stourbridge-based Sadler's Brewery.

Cole said: "I'm really excited about this venture and hopefully it will become an on-going thing. The football club are right behind me and have given me the freedom to deliver a great night to remember. Even my family want to come to this

one. Both Joe Lycett and Archie Kelly are big names on TV and it will be great for people to get to see them on the same bill in such a fantastic venue."

Lycett is currently working on new material for a national tour next year and has appeared on TV shows including Live At The Apollo, Taskmaster and Sunday Brunch.

Early bird tickets at £14 are available from Walsall Football Club on 01922 651416 or eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc.

For further information contact Jonny Cole on 07376 248521 or Wayne Thomas on 07551 170675.

## Bold as brass at the Grand Theatre

Musicians and actors were in the wings last night (Wednesday) poised to deliver the first in-house production Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for 40 years. Brassed Off sees director Gareth Tudor Price working with professional and local amateur actors and musicians on the story of a pit band going for glory in a national brass band competition. *Hi-de-Hi!* star Jeffrey Holland, pictured, plays ex-miner and conductor, Danny. The play runs to September 2.



## Get into the swing with vintage sounds

Fans of big band swing and jive dancing can get vintage kicks at Symphony Hall Birmingham this bank holiday Sunday when the prestigious concert hall is turned into a 1930s style ballroom.

Retro sounds will be heard when the Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra get their joint jumping with arrangements from such as Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman. The Swing Era will perform high-energy Lindy Hop routines after, earlier in the day, offering swing dance lessons at the venue's Ever-After Vintage Tea Dance. The event will also feature the Sugarfoot Stomp DJs. Tickets for the evening concert cost £22.50 to £27.50 and admission to the 11am and 2pm tea dance sessions are £12.50 to £18. No partners required but vintage dress encouraged. See thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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CHOICE



Jack Whitehall

**Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70 (BBC2, 9pm)** Jack Whitehall traces the history of the Edinburgh Festival, as the annual event reaches its 70th anniversary. First conceived in 1947 as part of the 'healing process' for a Britain emerging from the misery and austerity of the Second World War, the Festival was considered a bastion of idealism, and the Fringe was brought into existence in the same year, bringing with it a form of creative anarchy. Jack reflects on the many ground-breaking encounters between artists, musicians, writers and performers that the Edinburgh Festival has facilitated over the years, and examines the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture both in the UK and abroad.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Diamond League Athletics: Zurich Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Wigan Warriors v Hull FC (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.30** **BBC News.** **6.40** **Regional Programme.** **6.45** **Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme.** Nina Wadia, Gareth Malone, Vikki Stone and Ore Oduba help a pair of would-be poets battle through four rounds of rhyme-based challenges. **7.20** **Pointless Celebrities.** Lizzie Webb, Chris Steele, Robin Cousins, Rosemary Conley, Iwan Thomas, Katharine Merry, Dr Dawn Harper and Dr Pixie McKenna compete in a "health and fitness" edition of the quiz. (R) **8.05** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series. **8.45** **Casualty.** Part two of two. The team of Holby medics continue their efforts to help migrant refugees in need of medical attention on the French coast. However, Dylan is fast becoming frustrated with how little he can offer the camp, and makes a decision he may come to regret. Meanwhile, back in the UK, Jez faces the repercussions of crossing paths with the Ellissons, as an improvised explosive is thrown through the window of his home, placing both Robyn and baby Charlotte in jeopardy. **9.35** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. Rory's secret is revealed to his mother. (R) **10.05** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.25** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Leicester City and Bournemouth v Manchester City. **11.55** **People Just Do Nothing.** **12.25** **Film:** In the Electric Mist. (2009) **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.20** Coast. (R) **7.20** **Film:** The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **8.45** **Film:** The Magnificent Ambersons. (1942) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **10.55** Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly. (R) **11.55** **Film:** Bedknobs and Broomsticks. (1971) **1.50** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.20** Mastermind. (R) **2.50** Only Connect. (R) **3.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.20** Final Score. **5.20** University Challenge. (R) **5.50** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. Culinary competition, hosted by Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain. (R) **6.50** **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham Soweto Kinch and John Butt review Bach's St John's Passion from Prom 49, and the Charles Mingus Prom, featuring Kandace Springs, Shabaka Hutchings and Christian Scott. **7.30** **Nina Conti's Edinburgh Festival.** The comedian and ventriloquist showcases some highlights of the festival, chatting to Irvine Welsh about his show Performers and meeting poet and musician Benjamin Clementine. **8.00** **Iolo's Great Welsh Parks.** Nature expert Iolo Williams visits Padarn Country Park near Llanberis in Snowdonia, hoping to see the likes of ring ouzel, wood warblers and pied flycatchers. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Walker is caught smuggling Italian POWs out of camp at night, but far from being a traitor, he is furthering the war effort – and making some money on the side. (R) **9.00** **Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70.** Jack Whitehall reflects on the history of the Edinburgh Festival, and the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture on an international scale. **10.00** **Performance Live: Get a Round.** A trio of friends hell-bent on having a good time, wonder whether a big night out can save the world. Theatrical comedy, starring Sara Cocker, Lowri Evans and Leonie Higgins. **10.40** **Film: The Help.** (2011) An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis. **1.00** **Film:** The German Doctor. (2013) Fact-based drama, starring Alex Brendemuhl. **2.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.25** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.20** Gok's Lunchbox. (R) **11.15** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The Chase. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing Live: York Ebor Festival. The fourth and final day of the festival. **3.55** Tipping Point. (R) **4.55** Little Big Shots USA. **5.50** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.15** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R) **7.15** **Catchphrase.** Amanda Tollan, Manish Mehta and Charlotte Myers set out to prove they can "see it and say it" as Stephen Mulhern challenges them to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R) **8.00** **Les Dawson Forever.** Martin Clunes narrates a profile of the comedian, in which his daughter Charlotte Dawson examines the roots of her father's rise to fame. Roy Barraclough reveals how he and Dawson created some of their most famous comic creations, while Rick Wakeman reveals the secrets behind the comedian's trademark routines of deliberately off-key piano playing. **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.15** **Film: Captain Phillips.** (2013) The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fast-paced thriller, starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi. **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.30** Motor Sport: Caterham. **7.00** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Lee McKenzie presents coverage from Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. **11.25** F1 Meets David Coulthard. **11.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **6.55** **Film: Ender's Game.** (2013) In the future, the human race has survived conflict with an alien race, but the prospect of war breaking out again is a constant threat. A gifted boy is selected as a potential military commander for the coming conflict, and subjected to a gruelling training program to prove his worth. Sci-fi adventure based on Orson Scott Card's novel, starring Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford and Ben Kingsley. Edited for violence. **9.00** **Film: Dumb and Dumber To.** (2014) Premiere. Dim-witted friends Harry and Lloyd are reunited after 20 years. When Harry discovers he has a daughter he never knew about, he breaks his friend out of a psychiatric hospital and they go on a road trip with the intention of fulfilling parental responsibilities neither of them is capable of. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. **11.10** **Film: Ted.** (2012) A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane. **1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay revisits three restaurants he tried to save. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Darren plans to take Shane down, Mandy panics over a letter from social services and Brody sabotages Scott's plans. **4.10** Location, Location, Location. Phil Spencer heads to Nottinghamshire to help find a home for a couple who have spent most of their relationship living with their parents. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. (R) **1.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** The enforcement agents try to mediate a dispute in a takeaway, and deal with rent evaders living in potentially deadly conditions. Plus, a businessman faces financial ruin. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v West Indies. Highlights of the second day of the Second Test in the three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. With commentary and analysis from Mark Nicholas, Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. **8.00** **Supernatural Nazis.** New series. The role of occultism in Nazi Germany, revealing how religion and the supernatural were used in Hitler's pursuit of power. The first programme examines how the Nazis corrupted the teachings of Christianity to influence people to see Hitler as a messiah figure, and examines accusations that the Pope did too little to oppose them. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray presents highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Bristol City v Aston Villa at Ashton Gate, Nottingham Forest v Leeds United at The City Ground, and Middlesbrough v Preston North End at Riverside Stadium. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Rochdale v Bury, Wigan Athletic v Portsmouth, Mansfield Town v Luton Town, and Yeovil Town v Coventry City. **10.30** **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McAlarnon introducing their favourite clips. (R) **12.00** Access. **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Delete. **4.30** Access. (R) **4.40** Great Scientists. (R) **5.10** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four** **7.00** The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.15** Billy Fury: The Sound of Fury **12.45** Britain's Most Fragile Treasure **1.45** The World's Most Expensive Stolen Paintings **2.45** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.45** Close **ITV2** **12.35** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.05** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.10** **Film:** Honey (2003) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** **Film:** Honey (2003) **4.05** **Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** **Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.55** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.10** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.05** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **2.05** Total! Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bunkingly Big Hits **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **2.50** **Film:** Casablanca (1942) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** **Film:** Casablanca (1942) **4.55** **Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** **Film:** The Queen (2006) **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **1.05** Wycliffe **2.00** Rising Damp **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4** **11.50** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **12.50** Minder **1.50** The Professionals **2.50** The Darts Show **3.15** World Series of Darts: Perth. **7.15** Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. **10.15** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.15** **Film:** The Krays (1990) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** **Film:** The Krays (1990) **1.40** Minder **2.45** Sporting Funnies **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.05** Don't Tell the Bride **12.05** Streetmate **1.05** The Goldbergs **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** **Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **9.00** **Film:** Immortals (2011) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4** **11.00** The Dark Crystal (1982) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.50** The Cat in the Hat (2003) **4.25** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **6.40** About Time (2013) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.40** The Guest (2014) **12.40** Taxi Driver (1976) **3.00** Close

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CHOICE



Tom Burke (left)

**Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling (BBC1, 9.05pm)**  
New series. Supermodel Lula Landry falls to her death from a Mayfair balcony and the police conclude that she committed suicide, but Lula's adoptive brother John Bristow believes she was murdered and that key evidence has been overlooked. He calls upon private investigator Cormoran Strike to examine the death further and the penniless and effectively homeless PI takes the case. Crime thriller based on books written by JK Rowling under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith, starring Tom Burke and Holliday Grainger. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Film: Toy Story 2. (1999) Animated sequel, with the voice of Tom Hanks.  
**6.05** BBC News.  
**6.20** Regional Programme.  
**6.30** **Countryfile**. Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present the show from the Llyn Peninsula on Wales' North West coast. Ellie explores the seagrass habitat and joins a marine conservation project studying the region's fish, while Steve meets dairy farmers who deliver their milk door to door and invents a new flavour of ice cream.  
**7.30** **Diana, 7 Days**. Documentary exploring the week following Princess Diana's death, with first-hand accounts from those who found themselves at the centre of the ensuing events, including then prime minister Tony Blair, members of the royal household, and family members including Princes William and Harry.  
**9.05** **Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling**. New series. Private detective Cormoran Strike is called in to investigate the apparent suicide of a supermodel. Crime thriller based on books by JK Rowling, starring Tom Burke. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.  
**10.05** BBC News.  
**10.25** Regional Programme.  
**10.35** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield, Chelsea v Everton at Stamford Bridge, Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley at White Hart Lane and West Bromwich Albion v Stoke City at the Hawthorns. The fixture at Anfield was an early chance for the Reds and Gunners to test themselves against another of the leading contenders, while Chelsea continued their title defence against the much-changed Toffees.  
**11.45** **Live at the Apollo**. Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R)  
**12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.45** Triathlon World Series: Stockholm. **3.30** Equestrian: European Championships.  
**6.00** **Tribes, Predators & Me**. Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)  
**7.00** **Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me**. The first of two programmes in which Gordon Buchanan encounters a family of African elephants in the wilds of Kenya, and attempts to gain their trust so he can observe them up close in their natural habitat. He enlists the aid of an expert from the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to learn about their behaviour as he follows an elephant with a new calf, and discovers what it takes for the youngest of the world's largest land animals to survive in the face of a challenging environment. (R)  
**8.00** **Dragons' Den**. The panel cast an eye over plans for furniture made from old aeroplane parts, organic dog treats, healthy snacks and a company that buys and sells books. Presented by Evan Davis.  
**9.00** **Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?** The candidates are put through more demanding tests as they are pushed to their limits in a simulated emergency splashdown.  
**10.00** **III Behaviour**. Charlie is assumed to have committed suicide. Joel decides to visit Kira so he can comfort her, and finds himself enjoying taking over his friend's role in the family.  
**11.00** **Film: The Ides of March**. (2011) A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney.  
**12.35** **Film: Echoes from the Dead**. (2013) **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Film: K-9. (1989) **11.15** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.55** Joanna Lumley's Postcards. (R) **1.25** Catchphrase. (R) **2.10** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.10** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.40** Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve.  
**6.30** Regional Programme; Weather.  
**6.40** ITV News: Weather.  
**7.00** **Possibly the Best Adverts in the World**. Hugh Dennis narrates a two-hour special in which celebrities select their favourite commercials from TV and the internet in a range of categories. Bill Bailey chooses adverts for food, Ray Ripley introduces health and beauty, Angus Deayton focuses on cars, Chris Ramsey looks at sweets, Joe Lycett tackles toys, and Chris Kamara looks back at cigarettes and alcohol.  
**9.05** **Victoria**. New series. The second series of the drama about the early years of Queen Victoria's reign begins after the birth of her first child. She resumes her royal duties sooner than expected, and quickly becomes convinced that her husband and the prime minister are concealing troubling news about the conflict in Afghanistan, and turns to the Duke of Wellington for answers. Victoria also faces problems at home, as Albert's family descend on the palace for the christening, and continue to make plans for the future of the monarchy.  
**10.10** ITV News: Weather.  
**10.20** **Judge Rinder's Crime Stories**. Barrister Robert Rinder reveals how the parents of a teenager killed by a speeding car campaigned for a change in the law that had allowed the driver to escape justice. (R)  
**11.20.5** **Gold Rings**. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R)  
**12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Build Up. Steve Jones presents a preview of the 12th round of the season. **12.35** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 12th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Reaction. **4.00** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** 50 Greatest Kids Films.  
**7.00** **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year**. George Clarke presents the Pubs and Entertainment and Unexpected categories. Unusual structures featured include a hedgehog rescue centre, a West Country whisky den, a recreation of the Tardis from Doctor Who, and the UK's smallest cathedral.  
**8.00** **From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier**. Levison Wood travels into the badlands of Dagestan, an area the foreign office warns against visiting. He experiences the hospitality of the local warrior clans and takes a journey on horseback to the ancient city of Derbent – with an armed guide to fend off wolves and bears. He then moves on to Azerbaijan, a country where extreme wealth exists alongside subsistence poverty.  
**9.00** **Film: Taken 3**. (2014) Premiere. Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills' efforts to finally live a quiet life are shattered by the death of his ex-wife. Just when things seemingly can't get any worse, he is framed for her murder and must fight to clear his name. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.  
**11.15** **Film: The Wolf of Wall Street**. (2013) A New York stockbroker rises from unemployment to become one of the richest men in the city's financial elite through an illegal scheme to defraud investors. His wealth brings him an outrageously debauched lifestyle, but comes at a price as the FBI become suspicious of his manipulation of the markets. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.  
**2.30** Speed with Guy Martin. Guy tries to cross the English Channel on a flying bicycle. (R) **3.55** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.50** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wipper. (R) **7.05** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.00** Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **3.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R)  
**6.00** **All New Traffic Cops**. An intoxicated driver heads the wrong way down the A1 near Leeds. (R)  
**7.00** **Cricket on 5**. England v West Indies.  
**8.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. Agents Stewart and Iain head to Manchester, where a landlord is owed £8,000 in rent arrears and has already called for police back-up. Meanwhile, Brian and Del chase £3,000. (R)  
**8.55** **5 News Weekend**.  
**9.00** **Funny Women: The Mel & Sue Story**. Profile of entertainers Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, who have become famed for their irreverent, raised-eyebrow humour and cheeky innuendo. Both hailing from south London, Mel and Sue met at Cambridge and like so many others, honed their self-effacing double act on the stages of Edinburgh before breaking into TV fronting the Channel 4's daytime chat show Light Lunch. While at one point Mel came close to bankruptcy, the duo's luck was in when, in 2010, they were asked to host an unlikely sounding new show called The Great British Bake Off. Its enormous – though unexpected – success established them as top-of-the-game presenting talent.  
**10.30** **Sue Perkins' Comedy Greats: The Entertainers**.  
**12.20** Named and Shamed: Greatest Celebrity Scandals. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Delete.

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** BBC Proms 2017: Chopin Preludes  
**9.00** Gluck: Who Did She Think He Was?  
**10.00** Metal at the BBC **10.30** Muse @ Reading Festival 2017 **12.00** Queen: From Fags to Rhapsody **1.00** Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert **2.00** Metal at the BBC **2.30** Gluck: Who Did She Think He Was? **3.30** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.00** Ninja Warrior UK **1.00** Mr Bean **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.40** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **3.40** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **6.00** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **7.55** Film: Pacific Rim (2013) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** Film: Pacific Rim (2013) **10.30** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.25** Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **1.15** Foyle's War **3.15** Royal Stories **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Film: The Young Victoria (2009) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: The Young Victoria (2009) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Film: The English Patient (1996) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: The English Patient (1996) **2.55** Wycliffe **3.50** The Darling Buds of May **4.45** Rising Damp **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**5.45** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** World Series of Darts: Perth **12.00** Film: Clear and Present Danger (1994) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** Film: Clear and Present Danger (1994) **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Streetmate **2.05** Film: Muppet Treasure Island (1996) **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Predators (2010) **11.05** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.10** Don't Tell the Bride **1.15** Body Fixers **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Ride Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **1.00** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **3.25** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **5.50** Avatar (2009) **9.00** The World's End (2013) **11.10** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.05** The Warriors (1979) **3.00** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### The Theory of Everything, ITV, 9pm

Biopic of Stephen Hawking, exploring the renowned astrophysicist's romance with future wife Jane during their time at university in the 1960s and his initial diagnosis with motor neurone disease, which doctors believed would lead to his death within two years. Undaunted by deteriorating health, he continued his groundbreaking research into the origins of the universe. Starring an Oscar-winning Eddie Redmayne, with Felicity Jones and David Thewlis. (2014)

### TUESDAY

#### Bedtime Stories, BBC2, 2pm

A downtrodden handyman is forced to look after his niece and nephew. He soon wins them over with his knack for telling exciting stories, but to their surprise the tall tales start coming true – and as the children make their own suggestions, the results become even more incredible. Fantasy comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Keri Russell and Russell Brand. (2008)



The Theory of Everything, Monday, ITV, 9pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Muppets, BBC2, 1.45pm

Three fans of the famous puppet variety show discover a powerful businessman is going to knock down the Muppet theatre and drill for oil on the site. They track down frontman Kermit the frog and persuade him to reunite his co-stars, so they can put on one last performance to save the venue. Comedy, starring Jason Segel. (2011)

### THURSDAY

#### Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz and Samantha Ferris. (2014)

### FRIDAY

#### The Box, BBC1, 12.10am

A couple receive a box that will make them rich at the press of a button – but if they do so, someone will die. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden. (2009)

# Margaret reveals all about her life in the spotlight

American drama The Handmaid's Tale made its UK television debut on Channel 4 in May and became one of the biggest successes of the year, receiving 13 Emmy nominations before being renewed for a second season set to air in 2018.

Based on the 1985 book of the same name, the show imagines a future in which nuclear war has left a large percentage of the human population infertile and young women are forced to sleep with powerful men called Leaders and bear their children.

The young women – known as Handmaids – are assigned to the men and are essentially raped, in warped rituals involving the Leaders' wives, in a bid to fall pregnant and continue the human race.

The story is told through the eyes of a Handmaid called Offred (played by Elisabeth Moss) and switches between the present horror she is living in and the past, as the world starts to tumble into the chaos and disorder that has led

to a totalitarian regime.

Perhaps one of the reasons the dark drama has been so successful is that many feel the subject matter is incredibly prescient given the Donald Trump administration, the feminism movement and the instability of the world.

Indeed, the book's author, Canadian Margaret Atwood has claimed that the 2016 US Presidential Election led to an increase in sales of The Handmaid's Tale even before the success of the aforementioned TV adaptation.

Atwood's star is now shining brighter than ever, but her success is not only down to this one novel – for decades she has been universally acclaimed as Canada's greatest living writer.

She is a winner of the Arthur C Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, and has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once for her historical novel The Blind Assassin.

In 2001, she was inducted into

Canada's Walk of Fame and is also a founder of the Writers' Trust of Canada, a non-profit literary organisation that seeks to encourage Canada's writing community.

Atwood is also an inventor, and has developed the LongPen that facilitates the remote robotic writing of documents.

While she is best known for her work as a novelist, she has also published 15 books of poetry, many of her pieces inspired by myths and fairytales, which have been interests of hers from an early age.

And her upbringing is one of the key topics up for discussion when the writer and activist meets up with Alan Yentob in Toronto for tonight's Imagine.

Atwood explains how a childhood spent between the wilderness of northern Quebec and the city helped shape her vision of herself and the world, set alight her imagination and set her forth on a path to literary success.



Imagine – Margaret Atwood: You Have Been Warned!, Monday, BBC1, 10.30pm

# BEST OF THE REST

are keen to show they are the best in Britain. They are about to be faced with cake week, as they whip up a fruity signature bake, before tackling a children's tea party classic for the technical challenge and then creating a tricky illusion cake for the showstopper. But who will be more nervous – the contestants or Channel 4 as it waits to find out if the viewers have followed the Bake Off to its new home?

### WEDNESDAY

#### Love Your Home and Garden, ITV, 8pm

The most recent run of Love Your Garden may have only finished last week, but Alan Titchmarsh is already back with a new series – and this time, he's not just transforming deserving people's backyards, he's also tackling their interiors as well. In the first episode, he travels to Banbury, Oxfordshire, to meet Donna and Lee, and their daughters Claudia, 12, and Leoni, 9. Four years ago, Donna suffered a near-fatal heart attack which left her with severely restricted sight, and her young daughters now act as her carers. Alan discovers



Educating Greater Manchester, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

that the family's cramped, cluttered rooms and dark interiors are making it difficult for Donna to move around the house without tripping, so he sets about creating a light-filled space, while also turning the garden from a place currently used for storing rubbish into somewhere the girls can play.

### THURSDAY

#### Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World, Channel 5, 9pm

They may be young, but the children featured in this documentary series are often experienced beyond their years, thanks to the freedoms and challenges that come with being part of one of the most marginalised communities in Britain. In the first episode of the series, we meet nine-year-old Irish traveller

Margaret and her cousins, who are being evicted by bailiffs every seven days – and after they recently pulled their trailers into a school playground, resulting in 900 pupils being told

to say home, emotions are running high. Meanwhile, nine-year-old Indianna is moving into a chalet on her family's site, which means she will have a bed to herself – and, for the first time, a bathroom inside her home.

### Educating Greater Manchester, Channel 4, 9pm

New series. Life at Harrop Fold Secondary in Salford, Greater Manchester, a school at the heart of a changing community, following the teachers dealing with daily events. In this first episode, the pupils are comparing Trump's hairstyle with Hitler's, writing rude words on the back of a delivery van, and adjusting to an influx of students from a range of foreign countries. The school also has to respond to the shockwaves of the terrorist attack at the Ariana Grande concert, which eight of the pupils and one teacher attended.

### FRIDAY

#### World Cup Live, ITV, 7.15pm

Malta v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the Group F qualifier from Ta' Qali National Stadium in Attard. Malta have lost every group match so far, but produced a spirited display in last October's reverse fixture at Wembley.

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*John - Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates*

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*Michael - Portway Fencing*

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Express & Star

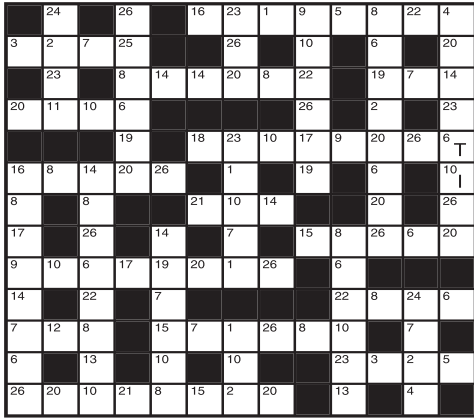


# BRAIN GYM

No.444

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	H	Q	J	V	S	T	C	K	L	A	Y	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	D	Z	F	P	G	O	E	R	N	X	W	U

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

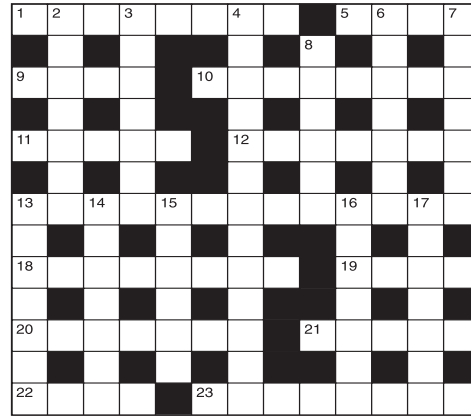
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- One instrument before another in the dance (8)
- This deck looks just the same both ways (4)
- Just one appearing in distant setting (4)
- He seeks perfection for one transaction before it's ruined (8)
- Coming from the chandler's is a long rope (5)
- Framework on which climbers are trained (7)
- Used by one with a view to entertainment (10,3)
- Make a record showing the range of a voice (8)
- Sounds like part of a gun emplacement (4)
- Applaud an application to the insurance company, we hear (7)
- Appears to observe the manuscript (5)
- Waterproof clothes used by painters (4)
- A man of scruples, as far as physics are concerned! (8)

#### Down

- Like some stonework on a track (7)
- Hurried back with the price to present an account (7)
- Master pleaded for a ship (6,7)
- Nothing strangely rising from these sources (7)
- One with a complaint not complaining! (7)
- What the drummer produces for a military spectacle? (6)
- Road not affected by severe weather (7)
- Record one visit cut short - that's reasonable (7)
- Long-range spectacles (6)
- An accumulation reposing in the bird sanctuary? (4-3)
- Makes the situation grave (7)



### Quick Clues:

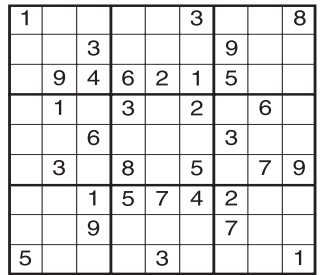
#### Across

- Carry on (8)
- Great potentate (4)
- Stupefy (4)
- Acute poverty (8)
- Droll (5)
- Scintillate (7)
- Declaration (13)
- Curb (8)
- Wise (4)
- Sedition (7)
- Bolt (5)
- Appear (4)
- Estrange (8)

#### Down

- Open-air (7)
- Stress (7)
- Inadvertent (13)
- Spot (7)
- Esteem (7)
- Hit (6)
- Corsairs (7)
- Indecent (7)
- Attack (6)
- Errand (7)
- Overlook (7)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	9	2	3	8	4	5	6	7
4	5	7	2	9	6	1	8	3
3	6	8	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	3	6	8	7	2	4	1	5
8	1	5	4	6	3	9	7	2
2	7	4	9	5	1	6	3	8
6	4	1	5	3	7	8	2	9
5	8	3	6	2	9	7	4	1
7	2	9	1	4	8	3	5	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC: Across: 1 Lilies; 4 Ransom; 9 Gives one's word; 10 Collect; 11 Natal; 12 Skate; 14 Heved; 18 Okapi; 19 Rosette; 21 Knock-out punch; 22 Nudity; 23 Wagers. Down: 1 Legacy; 2 Live like a lord; 3 Ensur; 5 Absence; 6 Short sentence; 7 Models; 8 Knots; 13 Trinket; 15 Look in; 16 Trout; 17 Meshes; 20 Sepia.  
QUICK: Across: 1 Hidden; 4 Intend; 9 Off one's own bat; 10 America; 11 Lilies; 12 Leap; 14 Delay; 18 Attic; 19 Overseer; 21 Head over heels; 22 Sheath; 23 Crater. Down: 1 Hookah; 2 Differentiate; 3 Ennui; 5 Nowhere; 6 Embarrassment; 7 Dither; 8 Essay; 13 Pick out; 15 Pathos; 16 Bower; 17 Geyser; 20 Ether.

## Quiz

- How is the convolvulus genus of plants also known?
- Which flower is depicted on the Royal British Legion's logo?
- On which part of the body is a lobotomy performed?
- In Greek mythology, from whose blood is the winged horse Pegasus supposed to have sprung?
- Which major London store removed the royal warrants from its shopfront in December 2000?
- What was the capital of the Confederacy in the US Civil War?
- Who was the first Hollywood legend to feature on a US postage stamp?
- In which year was the GLC abolished?
- What is the medical specialty concerned with the study of disease processes called?
- Which late US actor's real surname was Matuschanskayasky?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 A fragrant shrub; 2 Parakeet; 3 Malcolm McDowell; 4 Outer Hebrides; 5 Daniele Gatti; 6 Richard III; 7 Xylophone; 8 Friends of the Earth; 9 Opal; 10 Dave Bassett.  
Niner: HERALDING

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

959156  
2924586  
6536874

gives a participant,  
gives a casual participant,  
gives a second casual participant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

# TWO DR PEPPER CANS

**FREE** with every purchase of the Express & Star newspaper on **SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST 2017**, only at **WULFRUN SHOPPING CENTRE** news vendors stand, Wolverhampton from 10.00am

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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE



# Enjoy living it up like the A-listers

IT'S not uncommon to go to Los Angeles and bump into an A-lister or four. I once saw Johnny Depp about 15 minutes after I'd ogled his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

But, when celebrities need a quick escape from the glitz and paparazzi, they hop on a plane to Los Cabos. The Mexican hideaway, on the sun-baked tip of the southern Baja California peninsula, is just two and a half hours from LAX airport. Probably less if you're zooming over via private jet, like the Kardashian clan.

Los Cabos has two major towns connected by 'the Corridor' - San Jose del Cabo (more chilled) and Cabo San Lucas (more lively) - and a whole load of palm-fringed beach in between. Here are seven reasons why celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, George Clooney and Cameron Diaz are such big fans of the destination...

1. The Thunderbirds-style villas

Cindy Crawford and George Clooney built side-by-side 'Casamigos' Cabo villas, Sylvester Stallone spends his winters in Pedregal, and Jennifer Aniston practically has her own hideaway on a luxury hotel complex. Mainly only visible by boat and nestled in cliffs - just like Thunderbirds' Tracy HQ.

2. The whale watching

You may not even need to go on a boat trip to see the spectacle of grey, blue and humpback whales. From the end of November to March, chances are you'll be lucky enough to spot them from your sunlounger.

3. The super spas

Spas are anything but low-key in Los Cabos. Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Alba and Cameron Diaz are all said to be regulars at Las Ventanas al Paraiso's spa, which resembles a colonial Mexican hacienda.

4. The Mexican cuisine

Nothing quite hits the spot like authentic creamy guac, tortillas and tacos.

Sunloungers and sea views at Grand Velas



A surfer on Los Cabos beach at sunset



5. The statement art

Where do the likes of George Clooney and Leonardo DiCaprio go to get one-off works of art? They've been known to browse San Jose Del Cabo's famous gallery district (artcabos.com); a downtown hive of creativity featuring original paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery and glasswork.

6. The Sea of Cortez cruises

You're unlikely to see celebs on guided excursions - although Cabo Adventures do offer an excellent Luxury Day Sailing trip for \$109 per person for four hours (cabo-

adventures.com). A-listers are more likely to charter their squad a super-luxe yacht.

7. The celebrity standards

When your private butler shows you to your room and asks if you'd like the contents of your suitcase unpacked while you hit the beach, you know the resort's got celebrity appeal. That the level of service at the new super-luxe Grand Velas Los Cabos. The 304-room resort opened in late 2016 and Hollywood actress Juliette Lewis was one of the first to check-in. From sunloungers surrounding the triple-tier infinity pool, to serene beach

cabanas there are countless places to kick back and feast on insanely tasty tostadas.

How to get there...

Rooms from US \$548 (£434 approx) per person per night, all-inclusive. Visit [loscabos.grandvelas.com](http://loscabos.grandvelas.com)

Fly from London Heathrow to Cabo San Lucas SJD via Mexico City with Aeromexico, from £499.47 in November 2017. Visit [aeromexico.com](http://aeromexico.com)

For details on Los Cabos in Mexico, visit [visitoscabos.travel](http://visitoscabos.travel)

LISA HAYNES

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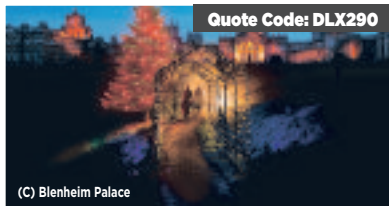
\*Please note: Not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

Your Chronicle

in association with  
**Omega**  
The Travel Association

## CHRISTMAS AT BLENHEIM & BATH'S FESTIVE MARKET

Quote Code: DLX290



(C) Blenheim Palace

Departing Saturday 9 December 2017

Blenheim at Christmas is a marvel not to miss, and the after-dark landscape lights are an other-worldly delight. Join us for all this, plus a day at Bath's Christmas Market along with return travel, hotel and English breakfast.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Reading/Wiltshire area hotel with full English breakfast
- ✓ Visit to Bath Christmas Market
- ✓ Visit and admission to Blenheim Palace (value £24.90)

2 days, by coach

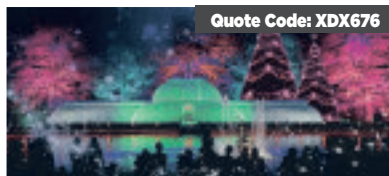
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Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

## CHRISTMAS AT KEW GARDENS AND LONDON

Quote Code: XDX676



Saturday departures,  
2 & 16 December 2017

See Kew's winter landscape at night as an enchanting Illuminated Trail of music and lights leads you round the Gardens as you have never seen them before...

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✓ Timed admission ticket to the Kew Gardens Illuminated Trail
- ✓ Free shopping time in central London on Sunday

2 days, by coach

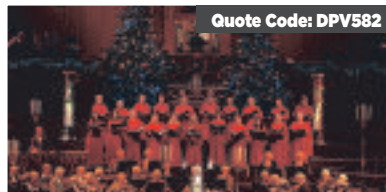
only **£129**.95pp

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[www.omega-holidays.com/XDX676](http://www.omega-holidays.com/XDX676)

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at the Royal Albert Hall

Quote Code: DPV582



Departing Saturday 16 December 2017

Take time out in the final countdown to Christmas to enjoy this candle-lit concert of popular carols, classical pieces and readings, all exquisitely staged in 18th-century costume. This great-value break also includes free time for last-minute gift shopping.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✓ A Circle ticket (face value £26.47) for the Saturday evening performance of Carols by Candlelight (upgrades available)
- ✓ Return coach transfer to the Royal Albert Hall
- ✓ Free time in London on Sunday

2 days, by coach

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Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

Quote Code: MYM522

## LONDON'S WINTER WONDERLAND



Saturday departures,  
18 November & 16 December 2017

London's Hyde Park transforms this November and December into a dazzling spectacle of sparkle, with 200+ Christmas Market stalls, ice rink, ice kingdom, circuses, Big Wheel, and even a cocktail bar made of ice.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
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- ✓ Free time in London on Sunday

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

37  
The Chronicle Thursday, August 24, 2017

## Superb detached on recently-built development

A superb three-bedroomed detached town house on a recently built Barrett Homes development in Bloxwich, Walsall, 52 Stamping Way is for sale through Goodchilds at a recently reduced asking price of offers over £195,000.

On The Bridles development, this is a deceptively spacious and versatile three-storey detached town house offering three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms and a fitted breakfast kitchen.

To the ground floor there is a breakfast kitchen, an entrance hallway with a guest cloakroom/WC and a dining room/sitting room. To the first floor is the main lounge, bedroom three and the main bathroom.

To the second floor is the master bedroom and the second bedroom with a Jack and Jill En-Suite shower room.

Outside is a private, walled rear garden with a patio area, a single car driveway and a side garage.

'The Bridles' Development is within easy reach of local schools and shops.

Goodchilds Estate Agents & Lettings is a relatively young but dynamic company, having been established since 1994 as Goodchilds Property Investments, offering affordable rental properties into the residential market.

A spokesman said: "We are extremely proud to have established our business as both a leading estate and residential lettings agency built by consistently exceeding client expectations. Social trends continue to change and the pressures of every day life challenge the speed at which we have to achieve things and buying or renting a home is no exception.

"Commercial business and not least technology continues to change at "Warp speed".

"Understanding the above helps for Goodchilds to develop practices and business philosophy that reflects their business values and of course tell you something about the type of business they actually are."

BLOXWICH £195,000



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Goodchilds


TEL: 01922 711444

EMAIL: [Bloxwich@goodchilds-uk.com](mailto:Bloxwich@goodchilds-uk.com)

### KEY FEATURES

Detached town house  
Versatile three storey accommodation  
3 double bedrooms  
2 reception rooms  
Modern breakfast kitchen



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## Semi-detached is ideal for first-timers

WALSALL

£134,950

Nicely placed on a modern estate, this two-bedroomed semi-detached home in Yorkshire Grove, Walsall, is an ideal first-time buy or an investment property.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £134,950.

It has a rectangular entrance hall, a downstairs WC, a kitchen/lounge with patio doors to the rear garden and a laundry cupboard.

A staircase from the lounge leads to the first floor.

Upstairs, the master bedroom is double in size. The second bedroom also has space for a double bed with full carpet fitting and a neutral design. The family bathroom has a double shower and WC and a sink. The property has a driveway for off-road parking.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.



## Spacious semi-detached on sale with no chain

WALSALL

£125,000

<<<

A deceptively spacious semi-detached house set on a small development just off Field Road in Lancaster Place, Walsall, is for sale through Marrior & Co at £125,000 with no chain.

Within close proximity of Bloxwich High Street and The Academy School, early viewing is essential in order to appreciate the gas centrally heated and PVCu single glazed accommodation.

This briefly comprises a storm porch, entrance hall/stairs, a rear lounge, a fitted kitchen, a downstairs shower room, two double bedrooms, a refitted bathroom/WC and well maintained enclosed rear garden.

A particular feature of the property is the potential for extension (subject to obtaining the relevant permissions).

For further information contact Marrior & Co on 01922 404446.

# K.Stuart Swash AUCTION

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**www.kstuartswash.co.uk**



## This extended detached comes with up to five

This extended four/five bedroomed detached property in Dursley Close, Willenhall, lies on the popular Brackendale Estate.

It is now for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £220,000.

The living accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall, a 22ft x 15ft lounge/diner, a spacious kitchen/diner, a utility room and

WILLENHALL

£220,000

guest WC.

To the first floor are four bedrooms, an office/fifth bedroom and a family bathroom. The property also has double glazing and gas central

heating throughout.

Outside there is off-road parking to the fore in front of an integral garage. To the rear is an enclosed garden.

Whilst the accommodation would benefit from modernisation in part, the property offers excellent potential.

Call 01902 606 595.





## Modern apartment in new build estate

WALSALL  
£475 PCM

<<<

This modern two-bedroomed apartment in Walker Road, Walsall is set in a quiet new build estate.

A few minutes walk from Leamore Park, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £475 pcm.

Having allocated parking, this is a property featuring modern open plan living with a kitchen, two good sized bedrooms, a modern bathroom and a storage room.

The apartment is located on the third floor and comes with great views.

In more detail the lounge/diner has laminate flooring, an electric heater and double glazed windows with French Doors. The kitchen includes a built in hob and an oven with a hood. Both bedrooms have laminate flooring.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.



## Four-bed detached on new development

WALSALL  
£190,000

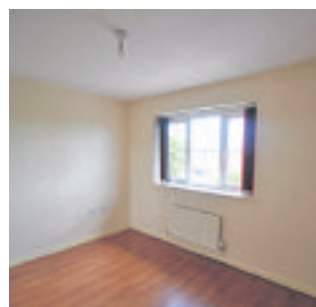
Being beautifully presented, this four-bedroomed detached house in Woodall Street, Walsall, lies on a new development close to Bloxwich town centre.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £190,000.

The home has gas central heating, double glazing and a driveway.

It has an entrance hall, a kitchen, a cloakroom/WC, a through lounge/diner, a master bedroom with an en-suite shower room on the first floor, three further bedrooms over two floors, a family bathroom, a shower room, front and rear gardens, a garage and a driveway.

Contact Goodchilds on 01922 711 444.



**SDL AUCTIONS**  
— BIGWOOD —

**6TH SEPTEMBER**

Aston Villa Football Ground  
Starting at 10:30am

**AUCTION**

**150 LOTS**

To include properties on behalf of:  
Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators



**18 Chaucer Road, Walsall**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)



**47 East Croft Road, Penn**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)



**Apartment 2, 81 Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield**  
2 Bed First Floor Apartment  
Guide: £150,000+ (plus fees)



**131 Ashley Street, Bilston**  
3 Bed Mid Terraced House  
Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)



**40 Hayes Street, West Bromwich**  
2 Bed Mid Terraced House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**11 Jaffray Court, 52 Gravelly Hill North, Erdington**  
2 Bed Second Floor Apartment  
Guide: £58,000-£64,000 (plus fees)



**78a Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley**  
2 Bed Detached Bungalow  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**76 Norfolk Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 Bed Mid Terraced House  
Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)



**13 Peach Avenue, Wednesbury**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £45,000+ (plus fees)



**Apartment 15, The Pinnacle, Willenhall**  
2 Bed Second Floor Apartment  
Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)

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**6TH SEPTEMBER**

 Aston Villa Football Ground  
 Starting at 10.30am

**AUCTION**

View: 25/8 @ 14.45; 30/8 @ 10.00; 1/9 @ 14.45; 2/9 @ 16.30


**14 Kiniths Way,  
West Bromwich**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and WC on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens, rear garage and driveway parking.

**Guide: £59,000-£64,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 13.45; 30/8 @ 11.45; 1/9 @ 13.45; 2/9 @ 13.30


**90 George Street,  
Wolverhampton**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Hall, reception room, kitchen and WC on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms and shower room/WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens.

**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 14.30; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.30; 2/9 @ 14.15


**133 Ashley Street,  
Bilston**

A 3 bedroom newly built end terraced property, standing back from the road behind a paved foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Storm porch, two reception rooms, kitchen, lobby and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms on the first floor.

**Outside:** Paved garden.

**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 15.30; 30/8 @ 10.00; 1/9 @ 15.30; 2/9 @ 15.00


**'Normean',  
4 Wednesbury Oak  
Road, Tipton**

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a blocked paved driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Porch, hall, two reception rooms and kitchen on the ground floor with landing, three bedrooms, shower room/WC on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens and driveway.

**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 12.15; 30/8 @ 13.15; 1/9 @ 12.15; 2/9 @ 12.00


**2 Willcock Road,  
Wolverhampton**

A 4 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, pantry and guest cloakroom/WC on the ground floor, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC on the first floor and further bedroom on the second floor.

**Outside:** Gardens.

**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 12.30; 26/8 @ 9.45; 30/8 @ 12.15; 1/9 @ 12.30


**71 Castle Road,  
Tipton**

A 3 bedroom detached dormer bungalow, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and partial double glazing.

**Accommodation:** Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom/WC on the ground floor with landing and three bedrooms on the first floor.

**Outside:** Gardens and driveway parking.

**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

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Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or - 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to [www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary](http://www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary). All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office or further details or advice.



View: 25/8 @ 13.00; 30/8 @ 12.30; 1/9 @ 13.00; 2/9 @ 12.45



**35 Norbury Crescent, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 10.45; 26/8 @ 12.15; 30/8 @ 14.00; 1/9 @ 10.45



**16 Overdale Road, Quinton**  
3 bed semi detached house with driveway parking and gardens  
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 14.00; 30/8 @ 10.45, 1/9 @ 14.00, 2/9 @ 15.45



**6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich**  
3 bed semi detached house with majority double glazing, in need of improvements  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 11.30; 26/8 @ 11.30; 30/8 @ 13.15; 1/9 @ 11.30



**81 Northfield Road, Harborne**  
2 bed mid terraced house with gardens, in need of modernisation  
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 10.00; 30/8 @ 15.30; 1/9 @ 10.00; 2/9 @ 9.45



**47 East Croft Road, Warstones, Penn**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and partial double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 14.30; 30/8 @ 10.45; 1/9 @ 14.30; 2/9 @ 14.15



**131 Ashley Street, Bilston**  
3 bed newly built mid terraced house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 13.15; 26/8 @ 10.30; 30/8 @ 11.30; 1/9 @ 13.15



**12 St Peters Close, Tipton**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 11.30; 30/8 @ 14.00; 1/9 @ 11.30; 2/9 @ 11.15



**224 Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton**  
2 bed end terraced house with central heating, in need of modernisation  
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 25/8 @ 10.45; 30/8 @ 14.45; 1/9 @ 10.45; 2/9 @ 10.30



**76 Norfolk Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed mid terraced house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)**





# Tel: 01922 404446

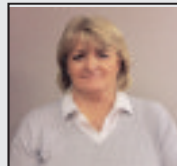
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Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

www.marrion.co.uk

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Vicarage Road  
Wednesfield

- Detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, drive, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£200,000

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Lane Avenue  
Walsall

- Well Presented End Terraced House
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front Lounge, Rear Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway, Front & Rear Gardens
- Potential to Extend
- No Onward Chain

£129,950

Energy  
Rating - C

NEW



Newhome Way  
Walsall

- Well Presented modern
- Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Conservatory
- En-suite to Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom
- No Onward Chain

£140,000

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Lancaster Place  
Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- lounge, kitchen/diner
- 3 bedrooms
- bathroom
- separate WC
- Garden
- Garage/parking

£125,000

Energy  
Rating - B

NEW



Woodcroft Court  
Walsall

- A well presented 1st floor apartment
- Secure allocated parking
- Gas centrally heated & PVCu double glazed
- Spacious lounge/ diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- No Onward Chain

£79,950

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Chillenden Court  
Willenhall

- Second Floor Flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen, lounge/ Diner
- One bedroom
- Bathroom/WC
- Communal gardens
- Communal Off Road Parking, No Onward Chain

£65,000

Energy  
Rating - F

NEW



Church Street  
Bloxwich

- End town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Gardens and parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£129,950

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



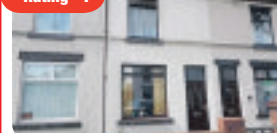
Sandringham Avenue  
Willenhall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- Shower Room/WC
- Driveway and Rear Garden

£174,950

Energy  
Rating - F

NEW



Bloxwich Road  
Leamore

- Mid terrace house
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£80,000

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Lancaster Place  
Walsall

- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- spacious semi detached gas centrally heated, PVC
- PVCu Double Glazed Storm Porch
- Rear Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Shower Room
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom/WC Well Maintained Enclosed Rear

£125,000

Energy  
Rating - C

Energy  
Rating - C



Oak Crescent, Leamore  
Walsall

- Semi-Detached House
- PVCu double glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms, Large Bathroom
- Driveway
- No Onward Chain
- Rear Garden

£92,950



Brookhill Close  
Willenhall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom WC
- Parking and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£99,950

Energy  
Rating - D

Energy  
Rating - C



Lancaster Place  
Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu Double glazed
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted kitchen
- 2Double Bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway
- Rear Garden

£110,000



Stanley Road  
West Midlands

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Gas centrally heated
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£120,000

Energy  
Rating - B

NEW



Havergal Place  
Sharnhall

- Ground floor apartment
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage and parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£144,950

Energy  
Rating - C

Energy  
Rating - D



Stamping Way  
Bloxwich

- Three storey detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, dining room
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, parking
- Gardens

£195,000



The Oaks  
Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, parking
- gardens

£199,950

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Highgrove Close  
Willenhall

- Link detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room
- conservatory, kitchen
- utility, 3 bedrooms bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, gardens

£220,000

Energy  
Rating - E

NEW



Lichfield Road  
Rushall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Majority PVCu double glazed
- 3 reception rooms, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Driveway and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£225,000

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Westminster Road  
Rushall

- Detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- dining room (alternative bedroom 4)
- 3/4 Bedrooms
- bathroom/WC, Garage
- driveway gardens

£259,950

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Long Lane  
Wolverhampton

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway, gardens
- Recently refurbished

£299,950

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Turnberry Road  
Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen, 3 reception rooms
- 4 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway
- gardens

£300,000

Energy  
Rating - E

NEW



Lichfield Road  
Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, breakfast room, conservatory, utility
- 3 bedroom on first floor, bathroom/WC
- 3 bedrooms on second floor
- Ample parking, garden, separate garage
- 1/3 acre garden plot

£349,950

Energy  
Rating - B

NEW



Stafford Road  
Bloxwich

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Cloakroom, Conservatory
- Six Bedrooms, Three En-suites
- Family Bathroom, Large Driveway
- Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain

£450,000

Energy  
Rating - D

NEW



Paddock Gardens  
Walsall

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, 5 Bedrooms
- (Master)
- Family Bathroom
- Double Garage
- Driveway
- Large Rear Garden

£600,000

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43

The Chronicle Thursday, August 24, 2017



**Lichfield Road, Willenhall**

- Substantial Detached Home
- Six Bedrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- Three Bathrooms
- 27' Kitchen/Diner
- EPC - D



£370,000



**Victoria Terrace, Walsall**

- Victorian Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Superb Views
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£275,000



**Downfield Close, Turnberry Estate**

- Immaculate Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- High Standard Kitchen and Bathroom
- Refitted En-Suite to the Master
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- EPC - D



£260,000



**Field Road, Bloxwich**

- Beautiful Detached Family Home
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- EPC - C



£250,000



**Stafford Road, Bloxwich**

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Generous Driveway and Single Garage
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - D

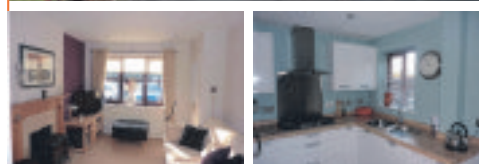
£245,000



**Woodall Street, Bloxwich**

- Four Bed Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - C

£190,000



**Grantown Grove, Turnberry Estate**

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Popular Turnberry Estate
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- EPC - D

£149,950



**Stamping Way, Bloxwich**

- Detached Town House
- Versatile Living Accommodation
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC - C



O.I.E.O £195,000



**Long Lane, Great Wryley**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Potential for Further Extension
- Superb Views Across Open Fields
- EPC - D

£225,000



**Beeches Road, Leamore**

- Superb Corner Plot
- Potential for Further Improvement
- Detached Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Conservatory
- EPC - D

£125,000



**Hadley Way, Beechdale**

- Deceptively Spacious Mid Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Generous Living Room
- Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle
- EPC - C

£120,000



**Elm Road, Leamore**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Driveway and Side Garage
- Extended Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- EPC - D

£120,000

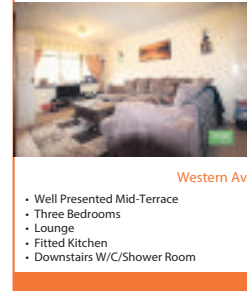


**Lister Road, Beechdale**

- CONDITIONAL ONLINE AUCTION
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-To-Let
- EPC - C



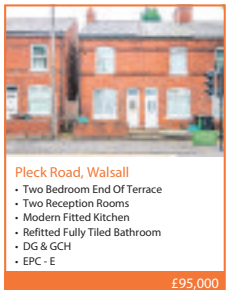
Guide Price £87,000



**Western Avenue, Bentley**

- Well Presented Mid-Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C/Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Warm Air Heating
- Front and Rear Gardens
- EPC - D

£99,950



**Pleck Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Refitted Fully Tiled Bathroom
- DG & GCH
- EPC - E

£95,000



**Church Place, Blakenall Heath**

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Kitchen & Living Area
- White Bathroom Suite
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC - B

£80,000



**Taverners Close, Willenhall**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- No Chain
- EPC - C

£78,950



**Little Station Street, Walsall**

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Train Station Within Walking Distance
- Decorated Communal Areas
- Lounge
- EPC - E



£60,000



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# L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

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## UPPER PENN



OIEO £650,000

**GREAT HALL GROVE, W'TON**  
Five Bedroom Executive Detached, Lounge & Separate Study, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Guest W.C, Family Bathroom, En-Suite to both Master & Bedroom 2, Office/ Den, Double Garage & Off Road Parking

## ESSINGTON



£349,950

**HOUGH WAY, ESSINGTON**  
Executive Five Bed Detached, Guest W.C, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility Room, Two En-Suite Shower Rooms, Refitted Family Shower Room, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage

## DARLASTON



OFFERS OVER £250,000

**WILLENHALL ST, DARLASTON**  
Five Bed Detached Period Residence, Five Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Shower Room, First Floor Family Bathroom, En-Suite To Master, Cellar, Maj Double Glazing, Gas C/Heating

## BRACKENDALE



OIEO £220,000

**DURSLEY CLOSE, WILLENHALL**  
Four/Five Bedroom Detached, 23ft x 15ft Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Utility Room, Guest W.C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden

## BENTLEY



OFFERS OVER £185,000

**WESTERN CLOSE, WALSALL**  
Extended Four Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, 22ft Fitted Kitchen, First Floor Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Off Road Parking & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Advised!

## ESSINGTON



OFFERS OVER £180,000

**BROAD LANE, ESSINGTON**  
Traditional Three Bed Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Open Views To Rear, No Upward Chain

## WOODLANDS



OIEO £130,000 - CASH ONLY!

**OAKEN DRIVE, WILLENHALL**  
Extended Three/ Four Bed Semi, Lounge/Diner, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen & Utility, Sitting Room/Bedroom Four, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating

## BENTLEY



£150,000

**LANGMEAD CLOSE, WALSALL**  
Three Bed Semi Detached, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Driveway/Carport, Detached Garage, Viewing Advised!

## HADLEY HEATH



£130,000

**PACKWOOD CL, WILLENHALL**  
Two bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Off Road, Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Fantastic F.T.B, Viewed Strongly Advised!

## SHORT HEATH



OIEO £120,000

**WESLEY ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Victorian Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Wet Room, First Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden, Gated Off Road Parking, Great F.T.B.

## SHORT HEATH



OIRO £115,000

**LUCKNOW RD, WILLENHALL**  
Three Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front And Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage, No Upward Chain

## WILLENHALL



£100,000

**RAVENSBORNE GROVE, W'HALL**  
Two Bed Mid Town House, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Off Road Parking Space, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great F.T.B Or B.T.L

## WILLENHALL



SHARED EQUITY £80,000

**TAMESIDE CLOSE, WILLENHALL**  
Four Bed Mid Town House, 50% Shared Ownership, Ground Floor Kitchen/ Diner, First Floor Lounge, Master Bed With En-Suite, Three Second Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Driveway & Garage, D/Glazing & C/Heating

## SUMMER HAYES



£69,995

**BRIDGNORTH GR, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Front Garden & Generous Side/Rear Garden, Garage In Separate Block, Viewing Advised.

## WOLVERHAMPTON



OIEO £75,000

**PRESTWOOD RD, W'TON**  
One Bed First Floor Maisonette, Spacious Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Communal Gardens, Recently Refurbished, Ideal F.T.B Or B.T.L

## FURZEBANK



OIEO £65,000

**ROEBUCK GLADE, WILLENHALL**  
One Bed Ground Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Private Rear Garden, Garage In Separate Block, Ideal F.T.B Or B.T.L.

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# Repeat victory for the Volvo V40 in safe used car awards

By James Parker

The Volvo V40 with optional Driver Support Package has been named 'Safe Used Car' by Co-op Insurance for the second year in a row, as the award is relaunched for 2017.

Co-op Insurance created the inaugural Co-op Safe Used Car Award last year in partnership with vehicle safety experts Thatcham Research to demonstrate its commitment to campaigning for safer communities throughout the UK. The Volvo V40 with Driver Support Pack was the first car to be presented with the accolade, based on analysis of used family cars, all of which must have a five-star Euro NCAP safety score, CO2 emissions of 120g/km or lower and be freely available on the used car market for £15,000 or less.

Every V40 comes with Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) as standard, while the Driver Support Pack includes a range of advanced safety aids, including pedestrian and cyclist detection, adaptive cruise control and systems that warn you if you inadvertently start to leave your lane or if there's a vehicle in your blind spot.



## Autonomous Emergency Braking is standard

While the Volvo V40 with the Driver Support Pack remains a non-mover as the overall winner, the V40 without this suite of safety features is also in the top 10 list of safest used cars.

Thanks to an impressive number of standard safety features, including the world-first application of a pedestrian airbag, every V40 offers crucial protection for its occupants – as well as those outside – in an accident. However, where the car really comes into its own is with its collision-avoidance technology.

The V40 became the safest car ever tested by Euro NCAP when it was tested in 2012, with superb scores across the board – including an unprecedented 100% for safety assist.

Since then, the Volvo S90 and V90 have surpassed the best overall score of any model tested in 2016, making Euro NCAP's top-three best-ever-performing cars all Volvos.

James Hillon, director of product at Co-op Insurance, said: "We're pleased to announce that the Volvo V40 has topped the list as Co-op's Safest Used Family Car for a second year running, making it a safe choice for families looking to buy a second-hand vehicle."

"Volvo scored the highest in a series of track tests conducted by Thatcham Research and once again produced unprecedented results."

Bruce Greenwood, used car programme manager for Volvo Car UK, said: "To be presented with the Co-op Safe Used Car Award for the second year running – and to also have two cars in the top 10 – by one of the UK's largest insurance providers as well as experts in vehicle safety is a real testament to the Volvo V40."

"Even as standard, the V40 has class-leading safety features that focus on protecting the driver, passengers and pedestrians."

"Customers are recognising the benefits that come with buying a V40 through the Volvo Selekt Approved Used Car programme, because the scheme includes competitive prices, comprehensive warranty cover, roadside assistance and a full history check. Combined with the V40's outstanding safety and striking design, this has made the car an immensely popular second-hand buy since its introduction in 2012."



The Driver Support Pack includes a range of advanced safety aids



## YOU THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T AFFORD A VOLVO... YOU CAN!


**The Volvo V40 T2 [122] R-Design**

**£199** per month on Personal Contract Purchase with Volvo Car Credit

**Personal Contract Purchase**  
Representative Example: V40 T2 R-Design

<b>Cash price of vehicle</b>	<b>£19,840.00</b>
Customer deposit	£3,000.00
Manufacturer deposit contribution	£1,000
Total amount of credit	£15,840.00
Total charge for credit	£1,892.00
<b>48 monthly payments</b>	<b>£199</b>
Duration in months	49
One final payment (GFV)	£8,180.00
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	2.00%
<b>Representative APR</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Total amount payable	£21,732.00
Mileage per annum	6,000
Excess mileage charge	14.9p per mile

**WHO WOULDN'T PUT SAFETY FIRST?**



**Record-breaking safety rating for the all-new Volvo V40 in Euro NCAP test**

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**To find out more, contact Brindley**

## BRINDLEY WOLVERHAMPTON

West Street, off Stafford Road, Wolverhampton WV10 6HT

01902 507671

brindley.co.uk/volvo

Official fuel consumption for the Volvo V40 T2 R-Design (manual) in MPG (l/100km): Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO2 Emissions 127g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

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# BMW 5 still a premium benchmark

By Darren Cassey

When the BMW 5 Series gets refreshed it's a pretty big deal. It has long been considered the benchmark for premium saloons and estates, but with new rivals such as Volvo trying to worm their way into a sector dominated by BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, it's no surprise that the 5 Series has been overhauled to stay ahead of the competition.

Aside from a slightly more slender appearance, the 5 Series looks very similar to its predecessor. However, under the skin there have been plenty of changes. For example, the chassis has been reworked using more lightweight materials, which contribute to an overall weight reduction of 100kg.

Meanwhile the notoriously smooth ride has been further optimised with a new suspension setup at the front and the rear.

Our 530d test car came with a 3.0-litre, six-cylinder diesel engine. It's an ideal powerplant for those who drive long distances, with excellent response and a surging, torquey power delivery. Resist the urge to put your foot down and you can easily achieve nearly 60mpg.

The 2.0-litre diesel is even more efficient, promising economy in excess of 60mpg and costing less to begin with. It doesn't have the same badge appeal as the 530d, but it has more than enough performance so you never feel like you're missing out.

A calm, relaxing drive has always been the 5 Series' key selling point, and BMW has exceeded its own high standard with the latest model. At motorway speeds it manages to smooth out the road so that even long drives are dispatched with zero stress.



It's a big car and struggles to hide it

What's arguably even more impressive is that this is not at the expense of great handling. The steering weight is perfectly judged and the 5 Series refrains from rolling around making it surprisingly fun to throw down a back road.

BMW's premium estate is a big car, and it struggles to hide it. The design is more slender than before, with the bodywork appearing to hug the frame more tightly. Particularly in the sportier trims, the addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance, though the standard car does look a tad plain.

The interior is fantastic and exactly what you'd expect from a premium estate, sitting further towards the luxury 7 Series than the more family focused 3 Series. A large central screen plays host to all the menus and satellite navigation functions, with many controls able to be used by waving your hands around.

The only complaint that can be levelled at the car is that the seats are quite



The addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance

uncomfortable, resulting in minor back ache over long distances. Be sure to try out different seats and driving positions before settling on one.

The 5 Series' specification is impressive across the board, with even models lower down the pecking order not giving the feeling you're being short changed – a few blanked off buttons the only hint that something is up.

The standard SE model still gets the widescreen on the dashboard, two-zone climate control and ambient lighting, which makes night driving really pleasant. Optional extras that are worth going for include adaptive cruise control, Driving Assistant Plus (which includes a range of advanced driving aids) and wireless mobile phone charging. It's difficult to find much to fault with the

BMW 5 Series. It was already at the top of the game and with a few choice revisions, such as a lighter chassis and upgraded suspension, there's no doubt it'll continue at the top of the sales charts.

Every mile behind the wheel reminds you why this is the premium saloon benchmark – sorry to BMW's rivals, but expect business as usual in the sales charts.

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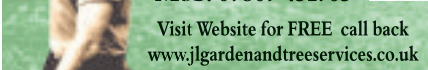
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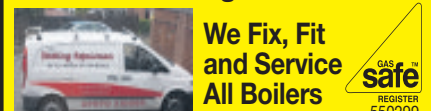
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READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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## 4 Pets &amp; Animals

## equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

## guns &amp; dogs

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREEN 550 GALLON FIBREGLASS POOL including pumps, filter, UV light, everything to start you up keeping fish, cost over £1,500, ex Hollybush equipment, Bargain £300. 07717 338587.

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## Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online [www.walsall.gov.uk/planning](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/planning). Representations can be made online, email: [planning@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:planning@walsall.gov.uk) or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

**17/0996** St Francis Group (Goscot) Ltd FOR: REMEDIATION WORKS COMPRISING: . SOIL STABILISATION . EXCAVATION, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OR CLEANING OF SOIL CONTAMINATED WITH HYDROCARBON . GROUTING AND CAPPING OF MINE-WORKINGS AND MINE SHAFTS. AT: FORMER CERRO EMS LTD, GOSCOTE LANE, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WS1 1SJ

**17/1006** Mr Mamun Alum FOR: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT: CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICES TO 6 NO. 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS, FIRST FLOOR REAR EXTENSIONS AND EXTERNAL WORKS AT: 17-19 LOWER HALL LANE, WALSALL, WS1 1RL

**17/1004** Clearchannel Outdoor FOR: INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED DISPLAY PANEL (ROTATING), AT: ADVERTISEMENT PANEL, BUS SHELTER 0662102 C/O SPRINGHILL ROAD & BIRMINGHAM ROAD, WALSALL

**17/0999 & 17/1000** KINGDOM HOLDINGS LTD FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICES TO 6 NO. 1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AND EXTERNAL WORKS AT: 15-16, LOWER HALL LANE, WALSALL, WS1 1RL

**17/0979** Parbinder Kang FOR: PROPOSED RE-DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING FORMER CAR PARK TO PUBLIC HOUSE TO CONSIST OF THE ERECTION OF 4 NO. 5 BEDROOM DWELLINGS, INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC GREENWAY ROUTE, IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING BOUNDARY TREATMENTS AND LANDSCAPE WORKS. AT: THE SNEYD, 67, VERNON WAY, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WS3 2LU

**17/1056 & 17/1057** Globe Property Limited FOR: CONVERSION OF BUILDING TO 35 STUDIO/APARTMENTS AT: 3, BRADFORD PLACE, WALSALL, WS1 1PL

**17/1022** Owl Homes Limited FOR: VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 ATTACHED TO PLANNING APPLICATION 16/1793 TO AMEND THE FACING MATERIALS SCHEDULE TO AMEND THE FACING BRICKWORK AND WINDOWS. AT: LAND AT 47, PORTLAND ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 8NU

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at: Junction 10 of M6 motorway and adjoining roads (A454 Wolverhampton Road, Bloxwich Lane, A454 Black Country Road and B464 Wolverhampton Road West).

Notice notice that application is being made by: Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and Highways England

Description of proposed development: Planning application for two replacement wide bridges over the M6 Motorway and a package of highway improvements comprising, enhanced motorway slip roads, installation of traffic signals, widening of the Junction of A454 and Tempus Drive Bloxwich Lane, modifications to the Black Country Road, landscape works and associated infrastructure and engineering works.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Development Management, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signatory: Mr Paul Ellingham - Agent, Mott MacDonald

Date: 24th August 2017

Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years. 'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

## LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk) (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10

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## Single Women

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**CARING**, young at heart lady seeks tall caring gent with GSOH for friendship, outings and car drives. **Text only replies.** Mailbox: 6042252

**SASKA**, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only.** Box: 4047094

**SALLY** young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428268**

**MIA**, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only.** Box: 4079581

**PAM**, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427553**

**TINA**, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man. GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only.** Box: 4145368

**SUE**, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

**JANE**, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only.** Box: 4099268

**TERESA**, friendly lady with GSOH, curvy build and attractive looks, 50 something, seeking romantic male 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428383**

**TRACY**, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only.** Box: 4006039

**ARE** you a gent with GSOH 60-70 and looking for some fun then call me, Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428381**

**HELLO**, my name is Pia. I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only.** Box: 4177099

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

**JANE**, 52yrs genuine blue eyed blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for potential relationship. ACA/Text answered so please reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings must pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box: 419673**

**LINDA**, 48yrs, young looking blonde lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to meet new men friends, call and let's see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428377**

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

**MARGARET**, attractive blonde widow, living alone and hoping to find a nice gentleman soulmate. I have lots to offer so please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428375**

**JOY**, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373**

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

**ATTRACTIVE** widow, loves life, 60s music, walking and fun. Hoping to meet a similar minded gent 60-80 for life's adventures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428371**

**TAMIKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

**NICOLA**, 37yrs mixed race beauty, just moved to the area from London so a bit lonely. Looks unimportant but have GSOH and be kind. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428369**

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

**WANTED**, submissive gent by text only, 51yrs, please call if you want to live more. **Ats Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428367**

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curvy! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, young at heart, would like to meet genuine caring guy for coffee and chats, pls days out. **Text only Replies.** Mailbox: 6035338

**CARMEL**, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

**SALLY** young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

**ATTRACTIVE** lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

**SASKA**, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only.** Box: 4047094

**CHRISTINE**, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

**MIA**, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only.** Box: 4079581

I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall, short brownish hair. I am of medium build, outgoing, caring and WLTM similar male. **Text only replies.** Mailbox: 6024848

**TAMARA**, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147**

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**TINA**, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only.** Box: 4145368

**ATTRACTIVE** widow, attractive, blonde GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428139**

**JANE**, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only.** Box: 4099268

**MAY**, 64, widow, GSOH, lonely and WLTM a nice, kind gentleman of similar age, hopefully someone who likes walking and animals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428217**

**TRACY**, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only.** Box: 4006039

**SLIM** attractive lady, 59yrs, feminine, kind, loves life. Call me or text me your number and let's meet up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428143**

**LADY**, 63, WLTM a gentleman of similar age, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428029**

**HELLO**, my name is Pia. I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only.** Box: 4177099

**SHEILA**, 64, widow, GSOH, likes to get out and about, walking, animals, reading, classical music, WLTM a male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428181**

**VERY** fit, elderly widower, loves walking, bird watching, exploring Europe, WLTM a lady for companionship. Please reply via box number. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428171**

**COLIN** 72, from Burntwood, looking for loving lady for life out, holidays and company. **Text only replies.** Mailbox: 4880436

**MALE**, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. **Text only replies.** Mailbox: 6042204

**MALE** 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. **Text only Replies.** Mailbox: 5422168

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**MALE**, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**





The first eleven, with a combination of older heads and experience, alongside youth and ambition



A bright future is on the horizon for Wolverhampton United with a new management team to lead them



Joint managers, Danny Carter, left, and Andrew Carrier



The managers seen during a training session at Prestwood Road

# United for a new era with rising ambition

**THE young management team have demanded their players' ambitions match their own as a new era begins at Wolverhampton United.**

Danny Carter and Andrew Carrier are thinking big in their first post as joint bosses at the West Midlands League Division Two outfit.

It's been a long time since they've had much to shout about at their Prestwood Road home, which is in the Wednesfield area of the city.

It's 41 years since the current guise of United came to being, after Oxley and Whitmore Old Boys merged and joined the West Midlands League.

They have played in all three divisions of that pyramid, with four separate stints in the Premier Division until they were relegated for the last time back in 2003.

They went down to Division Two three years ago and finished eighth out of 14 teams last season, so improvement is much needed.

## Experience

Carter and Carrier have been friends for years and are used to Premier Division football, so will want to climb back to that level.

Carter was a popular player at Wednesfield while Carrier has previous coaching experience, serving at Willenhall Town and Wolverhampton Sporting Community.

Both are just starting out in management, aged 24 and 28 respectively, and are determined to succeed for both themselves and the club.

Carrier said: "I've mainly played in the Prem, but I've had a few injuries and I've been watching football since then and constantly trying to get involved."

"Me and Danny have been friends through football for a long time now, he's well known and respected in the game. He's been captain, as a player, at every club he's been at."

"He's been trying to get into jobs here and there

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Craig Birch

***The players are experienced enough to go out there and think to themselves 'no-one at this level is better than us. We can do it'.***

and, when this came up, he phoned me and asked if I'd be interested. I thought it would be great to work with him.

"We came in quite late, it was three weeks into pre-season so it was quite late really, but we quickly made a few phone calls to see what players we could get down. Danny has done really well to get those lads in, I've given him a helping hand with a few numbers and training has gone really well."

"I don't like to put this in a disrespectful way, but a few of them are probably coming towards the end of their careers although they still have plenty to offer to the game. They are all around Premier Division or Division One standard, some of them are the best in the league if you ask me."

"We've hit the ground running and me and Danny are not off the phone to each other every day and we talk, at length, about the squad after we've trained on a Thursday."

"We talked a bit more in depth after we've named the players, then we turn up on a Saturday and go over tactics, before we deliver it to the lads."

"We've set up a fine list, if you're late or don't have a shower or have dirty boots it will cost you."

"It's all for the players, though, it pays for their

group nights out down the line. It gets a bit of a banner going between the lads and they are all trying to get money out of each other. It's all about emptying their pockets!"

They have left to concentrate on their jobs, with owner John Lee and chairperson Hazel Keirle taking care of matters behind-the-scenes.

Recruitment has gathered pace despite the duo arriving relatively late in the summer, succeeding Liam Fieldhouse after Ben Astley quit at the end of last season.

Centre-half Tony Russon has been brought in and named captain while striker Darren Leonard, even at the age of 43, has vast experience at a higher level.

Midfielder Lee Onions has played in the Premier Division for Wednesfield while Daniel Benbow, Jamal Pinnock and Leon Pugh have all turned out at levels above.

## Promotion

Back-to-back home games have seen them begin the season unbeaten, with a 4-0 win over FC Darlaston and a 1-1 draw against AFC Billbrook.

They are second on goal difference behind Warstones Wanderers, who have netted 15 goals in two games with 8-1 and 7-3 victories over Ludlow and AFC Bridgnorth Development.

Carter and Carrier expect Wanderers to be involved in the promotion race, but have made their intentions clear – they want to be champions.

Carrier added: "This could be a stepping stone, the aim is promotion and we really want to push on here. Hopefully, we can win the league."

"It's no secret what are ambitions are, I think we will be a force to be reckoned with. From what I'm told, Division Two is quite competitive but, hopefully, our experience can take over."

"Outsiders have asked us what we expect to do and the players are experienced enough to go out there and think to themselves 'no one at this level is better than us. We can do it'."

## Wolves are bookies' favourites for league

WOLVES have now been placed as favourites for the Championship title by leading bookmakers after their perfect start to the season. The club have gone from 14-1 since May to 11-4 after their good start to the 2017/18 campaign.

They have already seen off Middlesbrough, Derby and Hull as well as a victory over Yeovil in the league cup. Even before their clash on Saturday, with Cardiff, with Wolves then in second place, but level on points, the Molineux men were touted as the most likely to win the league.

David Stevens, head Of PR at Coral, said: "The odds have tumbled on Wolves for the Championship. They were 14-1 when we first opened betting in late May, and down to 10-1 before the start of the season."

"Their odds since have gone down to 15-2 after their opening win, then 11-2 and they are now 11-4 favourites after last night's victory. To put it into context, Aston Villa were 7-1 title favourites before the season began, but are now out to 14-1."

## Homegrown talent is priority for Pulis

TONY PULIS dreams of putting out an Albion team in the Premier League brimming with local talent from Birmingham and the Black Country.

The Baggies boss is impressed with the standard of players being nurtured in the academy and hopes that, in two years' time, those promising youngsters will be first-team regulars. Teenagers Sam Field and Rekeem Harper both played in midfield on the opening day of the season, while Jonathan Leko and Kane Wilson were named on the bench. If Pulis can follow up Gareth Barry's arrival with a few more additions before the window shuts, it may free up some of those youngsters to go out on loan.

The Baggies boss says regular men's football – the kind he can't afford to give them in the Premier League – is crucial for their development.

"The big thing about the football club is they've kept their young players in academy football for far, far too long," he said. "We've got to try and find four or five players to bring into this club to take it up to a level where we can cope without having the kids around us."

## Marathon for 20th time will be 'special'

THE 20th running of one of the region's biggest marathons promises to be a 'special' occasion, according to the event's top sponsor. The Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon has been a landmark event since the late 1990s. It is just a matter of days before people take to Wolverhampton's streets for the 20th time in succession on Sunday September 3.

Henry Carver was behind Carvers becoming the major sponsors and underwriters of the event which has run since 1998. Mr Carver, who won the business person of the year award in the Express & Star Business Awards this year, said: "It is special to be marking 20 years."

"We've had a huge amount of support from the people of Wolverhampton and I believe we're fundamentally a charitable city. The numbers this year are looking encouraging and it's going to be more of the same. We always get 2,000-plus and we always give £15,000 to £20,000 to charity."

There will be six events – including the marathon, half-marathon, 10km run, cycle route, walk through West Park and wheel and wheelchair events.





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## Star Singh cuts deficit at the top

GURINDER SINGH was the star as Smethwick closed the gap on Moseley to four points at the top of Birmingham & District League Division One.

They capitalised on the leaders' defeat to Bridgnorth by beating Shifnal by 45 runs.

Singh hit eight sixes and five fours in his unbeaten 98.

Nipun Karunanayake hit 80, but Himley fell further off the pace with defeat to Barnards Green. Kidderminster closed the gap on Walsall to 14 points in their Premier Division relegation battle, but both suffered defeats.

Opener Matt Pardoe was out on 99 in Kidder's 292-8, but big-hitting Barnst Green cruised home in 35.5 overs. Abid Ali hit 69no as West Bromwich Dartmouth accounted for Walsall. Wolverhampton were beaten by leaders Berkswell, despite 52 from Zen Malik.

In Division Two, Halesowen kept themselves in the promotion race with victory over bottom club Old Hill, while Penkridge were also winners – at Sutton Coldfield.

However, there were defeats for Cannock & Rugeley Hawks, Fordhouses and Wombourne.

Streety overcame Milford Hall to remain top of Division Three, Sagar Mangalokar starring with 73no.

There were wins for Brewwood (Richard Hewitt 52no) and Stourbridge (Zain Ul-Hassan 4-25 and Luke Alexander 4-20), against Nuneaton and Worcester Nomads respectively, but Lichfield lost to Astwood Bank.

## Dynamic striker Dom gets the job done for Rushall

**Rushall Olympic 1 Stalybridge Celtic 0**  
A DOMINIC DELL goal was enough to give Rushall Olympic their first win of the season in the Evo-Stik Premier as they ran out deserved 1-0 winners at home to Stalybridge Celtic.

Dell went close on 12 minutes with a shot just over the bar after a neat turn on the edge of the area. Hancox's hard work nearly paid off shortly afterwards but his low shot was turned round the post by Celtic keeper Joe Slinn. Aaron Burns' effort from 10 yards ended up over the bar.

Rushall were nearly caught out on 32 minutes when Joe Garvin tried his luck from 45 yards out.

Both sides traded half chances early in the second half, and it wasn't until the 61st minute that a keeper was tested when Slinn brilliantly turned Zak Lilly's effort round the post.

The goal came on 76 minutes after Lilly was brought down in the area, with the referee immediately pointing to the spot. Dominic Dell saw his penalty saved by Slinn, but the striker was in the right place to prod home the rebound.

## Ladies club expands with new facilities



The new pitch unveiled by players and coaches

A WOMEN'S football club is expanding the number of its junior teams. Walsall Ladies is increasing its tally of junior teams in a bid to attract more girls into playing football.

Walsall's bid was given a boost with the opening of a new playing base – an all-weather playing pitch at West Walsall E-ACT Academy.

Walsall Ladies FC, the women's side to the men's professional team who play in League One, has a number of teams from junior level up to the senior squad. The first team will be in the

Staffordshire County Women's League next season. The club launched an FA-backed Wildcats Academy aimed at players four to 11 this month. There are two junior sides, an under-12s and under-14s team, but the club wants to develop an under-eights, under-10s and under-15s side.

Chairman Brian Simpson said: "The club will train and play their home games on the new 3G artificial facilities."

Anyone interested can email walsallladiesfc@gmail.com or call Mr Simpson on 07817 785690.

## End to end in eight-goal treat for fans

**Darlaston Town (1874) 4 Willenhall Town 4**

THE game had everything keeping the 141 crowd enthralled until the final whistle. Eight goals, a sending off, a penalty, a hat trick, chances galore and an equaliser deep into stoppage time were just some of the highlights at The Paycare Ground.

Both sides opened brightly but it was the home side who deservedly broke the deadlock in the ninth minute when Ricky Kelly scored from the penalty spot.

The visitors levelled in the 31st minute when Sam Causton's misdirected header back to Aaron Morris evaded the home keeper.

Ten minutes later the home side restored their lead through Hughes, who notched a second just before half time.

The visitors pulled on back with Jamal Jakeman cutting inside the box to shoot underneath keeper Morris.

In the aftermath of the goal Darlaston's Lucas Hough was sent off following an off the ball incident.

The visitors pressed hard for the equaliser which came on 61 minutes, Ashley Challoner Campbell driving home.

Hughes was rewarded with his hat trick goal on 71 minutes.

A through ball from Causton saw the centre forward out muscle Wharton before rounding the keeper and slotting home, but deep into injury time Willenhall grabbed a dramatic point to break the hearts of the home defence.

## Cup of woe as Wood crash out in replay

**Walsall Wood 0 - 1 Tividale**  
**Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay**

Wood were immediately on the front foot and pressed Tividale from the off and right winger Peter Till was the main instigator in those opening minutes giving Tividale's defence a torrid time. After a goalless first half, Tividale broke the deadlock on 79 minutes when Curtis Cocking's cross was volleyed home by an unmarked Smith at the back post. Amongst the chances in those final 10 minutes were a Clarke shot that beat Cheshire but lacked placement but Tividale held out.

# LEAHY POUNCES TO MAKE POINT

**LUKE Leahy scored his first goal for Walsall as they claimed a hard-fought point at Ports-mouth.**

In front of a packed-out crowd of 17,198 – 464 of those Saddlers fans – at Fratton Park, Leahy put the resolute visitors ahead just into the second half, tapping in at the far post.

Boss Jon Whitney was pleased with his side's showing, but they were denied a first away win of the season as Brett Pittman replied with a late penalty after goalkeeper Mark Gillespie brought down substitute Nicke Kabamba.

Both sides had the same record from this League One season going into the game – a win and a loss.

The Saddlers' starting XI was unchanged from their 2-1 win over Oldham Athletic the weekend prior, and they were set up in a 3-5-2 formation.

### Late

Meanwhile, 2008 FA Cup winners and former Premier League side Pompey had former Banks's Stadium favourite Milan Lalkovic starting up front. After a minute's silence for the Barcelona attack victims, Whitney's side made an energetic start – keen to press high up the pitch – but that eagerness almost cost them early on.

Skipper Adam Chambers flew in with a late lunge on Adam May three minutes in and he was shown a yellow card, but reds have been given for challenges like that.

There were no changes at the break and Walsall made a dream start to the second period, going ahead within a couple of minutes of the restart.

A clever ball across the face of goal from James Wilson was finished off by the superb Leahy.

Walsall were left to rue some missed opportunities as they gave away the penalty.

Brett Pittman stepped up to the spot and made no mistake, lashing the ball into the corner to bring the scores level.



Luke Leahy wheels away after slotting home the opening goal in the Saddlers' 1-1 draw at Fratton Park

## M&B on the rise after outstanding show

M&B CHESLYN HAY'S league position improved significantly as they completed their outstanding fixture against Dudley Building Society leaders Willenhall Nordley A and also eased past Woodfield A to move into third place, writes Dave Law.

Their match against Willenhall Nordley A was always likely to be close with the leaders in

top form and Craig Dace (21-7) and Aaron Tapper (21-13) gave them a narrow 9-5 and 18-shot victory over their visitors.

The best card for Willenhall Nordley came from Dave Semper, who played the green superbly to win 21-12.

The Woodfield game was slightly more straightforward as there were 43 shots separating

the two teams in the 11-3 victory. Jack Hill was outstanding with his 21-4 victory and Craig Dace again weighed in with an impressive 21-12 win over Bob Marsh.

Woodfield's top card came from John Nevey (21-12).

Dudley Dell gave no quarter in their 13-1 victory over second-bottom Bylet.

★★★  
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Thursday, August 24, 2017

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